



# NAVAL HELICOPTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY - NEWSLETTER

“GATHER, PRESERVE and DISPLAY the LEGACY of the NAVAL HELICOPTER”

Volume 1 Issue #1

April, 99

## **BOARD of DIRECTORS:**

Charles B. Smiley, President  
William F. Quarg, Vice-President  
Lloyd L. Parthemer, Secretary  
Donald J. Hayes, Treasurer

Alfred E. Monahan, Policy, Long Range Plans  
Robert S. Vermilya, Physical Plant  
George E. Smith, Physical Plant  
Hugh McLinden, Jr., Historian  
Harold Nachlin, Artifacts  
George F. Cagle, Librarian  
Reid P. Carleton, MIS Manager

## **ADDRESS:**

NHHS  
P.O. Box 974  
Bonita, CA 91908-0974

## **Telephone:**

(619) 461-1840

## **Email:**

[Nhhs@home.com](mailto:Nhhs@home.com)

## **Web Site:**

<http://www.nhhs.com>

---

## **Message from the President:**

Dear Plank Owners,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for the support you've provided during our formative period. Your generosity has enabled us to have our accession procedures in place before issuing a call for artifacts and this is something every Curator we've spoken with has advised us to do. Specifically, we've completed a state of the art computerized bar coding system that will provide instant information on each article as to donor, storage

identification, historical significance, etc..

Invaluable assistance from a local expert who became interested in what we are doing to perpetuate the legacy of the Naval Helicopter also helped make this possible.

Our next requirement is for storage. To that end, we've established liaison with USS Midway and have been assured of space aboard. According to her web site, <http://www.midway.org/>, July 4, 2000 is the scheduled date for her grand opening at the embarcadero in San Diego and we hope to establish a strong presence for the rotary wing community. In the meantime, we're operating out of a space at North Island and we have applied as a non-profit organization for any other suitable sites that may exist.

Our Plank Owner roster now numbers **133** members and the names include many distinguished individuals from the active duty, retired and civilian communities. I invite you to read through the list. If your name is among them, I believe you'll be proud to number yourself among such a sterling group. If you're not a Plank Owner, we hope you'll join us. An application appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, I'd like to ask you to consider taking an active part in our mission to "Gather, Preserve and Display the Legacy of the Naval Helicopter." We need "on scene", personal accounts from individuals who were involved in the initial efforts to develop the myriad roles that have made the helicopter a major player in U.S. Naval operations. We know you're out there, so while there's time, take this opportunity to set the record straight. Put a pen to paper or get on your word processor. It doesn't have to be deathless prose-just tell it in your own words and give us plenty of names and dates. We're especially interested in combat SAR, riverine, antisubmarine and amphibious warfare, vertical

replenishment, minesweeping, Antarctic support and manned spacecraft recovery operations, however there are others that need to be covered.

We hope to hear from you,

Chuck Smiley

---

### **Retired Flag Officers Advisory Board:**

The NHHS Board of Directors are proud to announce the formation of a Retired Flag Officers Advisory Board. Composed of individuals who have evidenced a continuing interest in organizations such as NHA, this distinguished group of aviators makes up a veritable “Who’s Who” in both the rotary and fixed wing communities. The original members of this Advisory Board and their significant commands are:

VADM Don Jones, COMTHIRDFLT, OP 06  
RADM “Jig Dog” Ramage, COMCARDIV  
7/CTF77

RADM Warren Aut, COMFAIRMED  
RADM Roger Rich, COMNAVPHIL  
RADM “Scotty” Walker, COMNAVBASE San  
Diego

RADM John Higginson, COMNAVBASE Long  
Beach

RADM Phil Duffy, COMUSNAVCENT  
RADM Bill Terry, COMLOGGRU 2

Meetings of the Advisory Board will be ad hoc, however, the long term personal relationships existing between members of both boards will facilitate both individual and collective communications and allow NHHS to profit from the Advisory Group’s broad range of experience in both the Navy and the business world.

---

### **Plank Owners:**

NHHS’ initial membership and only funding program to date has been and remains the issuance of “**Plank Owner**” certificates. This has proven to be popular and has sustained our early efforts during start-up. Current plans are

to continue this program until the Midway arrives in San Diego and we move an exhibit aboard. This would signify that we are underway and have the initial (Plank Owner) crew onboard. The NHHS Inc., has no voting members other than the Board of Directors. However, a program for additional non-voting memberships, similar to other public benefit corporations, is under consideration for the near future.

### **Current Plank Owners are:**

Harry E. Asbury; Warren E. Aut; Gerald E. Balderson; Dale E. Barck; Robert E. Batterby; Earl R. Bergsma; Daniel R. Bilicki; Alan J. Billings; Melvin J. Box; Joseph G. Brady; Ian F. Brown; Lewis C. Brown; Richard A. Bruning; E.O. "Buck" Buchanan; Robert Bullard; George F. Cagle; Paul Caine; Reid P. Carleton; Tomas Carlos; Claude C. Coffey, Jr.; Lawrence E. “Bud” Cole; Jack E. Conner; Frank Coombs; William Joseph Cox; Ronald E. Crooker; John S. Daly; Dan Davey; Lee E. Davison; Robert M. DeGregorio; Joseph R. DeNigro; Richard L. Dick; Byron L. Dieckman; Jewell L. Dixon, Jr.; R. "K" Doane; John E. Dobyns; Richard F. Dreher; John "Stealth" Dryden; Lloyd L. Duncan; Bryan R. Eagan; Robert "Pappy" Elerick; Howard Elwell; Alvin F. Emig; Ralph W. Fairbanks; Louis Fazio; Arnold K. Fieser; Jan C. Gaudio; Larry H. Gjerman; H. Glenzer; Rene Gonzalez; Harold R. Gordinier; Andrew A. Granuzzo; Donald G. "Don" Gregory; Daniel L. Hansen; Christopher Hayes; Donald J. Hayes; Margaret E. Hayes; Thomas Hayes; Brian W. Hickman; John J. Higginson; Edward H. Howard; Charles C. Jones; Donald S. Jones; Robert E. Jones; Hardy Kircher; L.S. Kollmorgan, Jr.; Richard G. Krueger; Edward Kubicki; Terry C. Lackey; B.C. Lamberth; Thomas C. Lawson, III; John P. Leach; Walter B. Lester; Dan Libertino; Bill Lloyd; Kenneth W. Lowe; In memory of George H. Lyter, Jr. (deceased); Jim MacArthur; Ken Marion; William H. Marten, III; David J. McCracken; Harrison R. McDonald; Joe McKeller; Anne M. McLinden; Hugh F. McLinden, Jr.; James A. McLinden; Willie McNeil; Steve Millikin; Alfred E. Monahan; Bill "Red Dog" Moss; Roger Murray; Harold Nachlin; Phillip W.

Nicholas; Eric Oxendorf; Wade M. Page; Anne H. Parthemer; Lloyd L. Parthemer; Gene Pellerin; H. Vernon Pepper; William S. Personius; Carl M. Petersen, II; Duane Phillips; Tom Pocklington; W.D. "Bud" Pocklington; Mathew John Pohl; Phil Poisson; David L. Punzelt; William F. Quarg; P.M. "Mike" Reber; Robert L. Redman; M.L. "Bud" Reynolds; Robert Ritzman; Matthias J. "Matt" Russ, II; Robert E. Schock; Ken A. Schroeder, Jr.; Joe Skrzypek; Charles B. Smiley; George E. Smith; Maribeth "Smitty" Smith; John E. Soto; Walter M. "Smokey" Staight; Elizabeth A. Stuyvesant; Frank M. Suzan; David A. Swan; William E. Terry; Steven J. Tomaszeski; Robert S. Vermilya; J.S. "Scotty" Walker; James D. Waring; Howard M. Whitfield; Paul F. Whitten, Sr.; John A. Willett; Robert W. "Bob" Womble; and Harry J. Zinser

---

### **Mark Starr Pioneer Award – 1999:**

(The following remarks were made during the presentation of the award.)

The MARK STARR PIONEER AWARD for 1999 is being awarded to all Navy/Marine and civilian personnel who served in support of naval helicopter operations in the Korean Conflict during the period 27 June 1950 to 27 July 1954. This includes the pilots, crew chiefs, air crew, corpsmen, maintenance and administrative personnel, civilian technical representatives, and other support personnel who were stationed in Korea, with 7th Fleet ships off shore and in maintenance and supply/support units in Japan.

Starting with a blank page these people wrote Naval Helicopter History as they developed and refined the many missions that were laid on the helicopter. These included plane guard, ditched pilot recovery, combat SAR, gunnery spotting, mail and supply runs to non-aviation ships and mountain peak outposts, medevac (combat & non-combat), holy helo, and mine spotting and destruction. For the first time complete units, up to and including a whole battalion of Fighting Marines and their equipment, were projected ashore and another unit was returned. It was also

during the Korean conflict that the first night helicopter troop lift in history was recorded.

It is fair to say that the bold and dedicated actions taken in this era of helicopter employment by all involved personnel caught the attention of senior officers at every level and spurred the development and procurement of more sophisticated rotary wing aircraft that were later made available for service in Vietnam and the Middle-East operations. Many of the missions in which those of you here are currently involved were conceived and developed by the Korean War Veterans we honor by this award.

Accepting the award on behalf of all those who served in naval helicopter operations in Korea is **Commander Charley C. Jones, USN Ret**. Charley is a pioneer Helicopter Pilot in the true sense of the word and holds helo designation # **229** dated April 21st, 1950 (49 years ago, today). He was a member of HU-1 which, during the period July 1950-July 1953, effected the rescue of 429 personnel, many under hostile fire. Charley has seen the rescue business from both sides. Following one rescue, his helo was so damaged by small arms fire that he was forced to ditch it in the Han River inside enemy territory. He and his crewman took to their life raft, paddled to an island in the middle of the river and were picked up by another HU-1 helicopter. Charley made a total of 20 rescues in Korea and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

---

### **PIONEER AVIATOR:**

Attending the 1999 NHA Symposium is CDR Edward Kubicki, USN, (ret). On July 26, 1946 CDR Kubicki became the 14th Naval Aviator to receive a helicopter designation. He is the last surviving Pilot Plank Owner of the Navy's first helicopter squadron, VX-3.

CDR Kubicki's career spanned a time in rotary wing history when "FIRSTS" were the order of the day. Events from his remarkable career include:

- FIRST helicopter flight in the Panama Canal Zone and FIRST helicopter flight to transit the Isthmus of Panama from Atlantic to Pacific on December 7, 1946.
- FIRST flight of a helicopter in the Antarctic in an HO-3S on January 10, 1947 during Operation High Jump.
- Participation in Operation Sandstone, the atomic tests at Eniwetok Atoll, ferrying "hot" samples in an HO-3S.
- FIRST helicopter flight and landing at Thule, Greenland during Operation Nanook, 1951.
- Project Officer for DASH, the Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter Program 1959-1962.

CDR Kubicki retired in 1962. His contribution to Naval Rotary Wing Aviation is best summarized by an excerpt from his retirement letter, signed by ADM P.D. Stroop, Chief, Bureau of Naval Weapons: "Your fame and recognition as a helicopter pilot have become legend in the service and the number of successful rescue flights you have made over these twenty years of flying will always be a challenge to those who follow you."

Note: NHHS is particularly interested in locating and/or developing information on early Naval Helicopter Pilots.

---

### **NHHS Web Site Status:**

The NHHS web site (<http://www.nhhs.com>) has been somewhat explosive in its development. We have generated over 400 pages and 19.7mb in size. The future layout will include:

- Upgrades to all warfare areas
- Increased medal entries as we receive them . . . (HELP)
- Squadron histories by year . . . (active units, please HELP)
- Increased picture inventory with specific type aircraft statistics (initial buno, weight, engines, etc.)
- All rotary wing aviator designation numbers
- CNO Safety Award winners
- Online interactive rotary wing aerodynamics course

- Aviation weather course
- Beta site interactive rotary wing games and simulations
- Squadron annual personnel histories
- Links to all squadron/wing web sites
- Links to other museum web sites
- Increased pioneer recognition (associated links if they exist)
- Library of events and people pictures
- Helo experimentation or "What's New" section
- Existing research papers for future evaluation/development

This perhaps is a limited list and we probably have at least 1-2 years effort remaining. We solicit your help and would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give in any of these areas. Some areas are partially completed. If you could fill in the blanks we would gladly give you credit for your efforts.

Reid P. Carleton, MIS Manager

---

### **DONOR GUIDELINES:**

The Naval Helicopter Historical Society will accept for accession articles of technical, historical or artistic value for which it is able to provide storage, protection and preservation under conditions that insure availability for exhibition and study.

### **Examples include:**

1. Historically significant helicopter aircraft in the form of (1) originals, (2) replicas, (3) reproductions, (4) restorations, and (5) mock-ups.
2. Ancillary helicopter aircraft equipment in the form of engines, rotor blades, instruments, wheels and tires, etc..
3. Helicopter aircraft models when and if they meet the professional standards of the Society's Master Modeler.
4. Original and reproduction paintings of helicopter aviation in oils and watercolors. Also etchings and prints including posters and sculptures.

5. Photographs and negatives of aviation articles, materials and significant helicopter events.
6. Helicopter clothing, uniforms, personal equipment, insignia and memorabilia.
7. Books, manuals and manuscripts in the form of collections or individual items.
8. Narratives and published articles that describe events and developments of significance or of general interest.

**Documentation:**

Each collectible shall be accompanied by documentation authenticating its source or origin including chronological dates, locations and responsible individuals.

**Special Considerations:**

Artifacts with less than complete data, but having artistic or technical merit may be accepted for accession if the curators are reasonably certain of their origin, content and the item's history can be established through scholarly research. It is important for both the research and exhibition functions of the Society to document changes and development in helicopter history and technology, therefore,

collection of recent and current work is also encouraged.

**WE ARE READY TO ACCEPT DONATIONS.**

Thank you for your response concerning the collection of helicopter artifacts and memorabilia. **Our accession system is now online** and we are ready to receive your historically significant donations.

**FIRST**, however, it is necessary that you:

1. List and photograph (if appropriate) the item(s) you have to donate.
2. Write a statement of their historical significance.
3. Provide the name and address of the owner of the item(s).
4. Forward 1-3 above to: **NHHS, P.O. Box 974, Bonita, CA 91908**

We will review this information and call-for-your donations by sending you a Donor Acknowledgement form to be completed, signed and returned with the selected items.

Your interest in preserving naval helicopter history is greatly appreciated.  
George Cagle, Librarian/Curator

**CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:**

Would you like to get involved in helping gather, preserve and display the legacy of the naval helicopter? If so, please let us know your experience, special knowledge, talent, skill or interest so we can call upon you when the Society has reached that level of evolution in which your special talent is needed. If you're interested in volunteering your time and talent, please forward the following information to:

**NHHS, P.O.BOX 974, BONITA, CA 91908-0974**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Area(s) of Special Knowledge/Skill/Talent/Interest:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Experience:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## NAVAL HELICOPTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

The Naval Helicopter Historical Society was organized to “Gather, Preserve and Display the Legacy of the Naval Helicopter.” This is to include helicopter operations in the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. The timeliness of this effort was made apparent with the passing of some of the pioneers in naval helicopter operations. Action was necessary before the “corporate memory” was lost!

The collection of historically significant materials from donors will be used for presentations, displays, research and the eventual establishment of a museum. These initial startup funds will be used to acquire the myriad of items necessary to properly receive items for cataloguing and preservation. Please complete the application below and send it to: **NHHS, P.O. BOX 974, BONITA, CA 91908-0974**

### NHHS “PLANK OWNER” APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Please print, as you would like it to appear on the certificate

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$100.00 payable to NHHS or please bill my bankcard  
MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

A “Plank Owner” certificate suitable for framing will be given to all applicants.