



201 TOURIST CENTER DRIVE, PO BOX 368, HAVELOCK, NC 28532



# AVIATION CONNECTIONS: NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

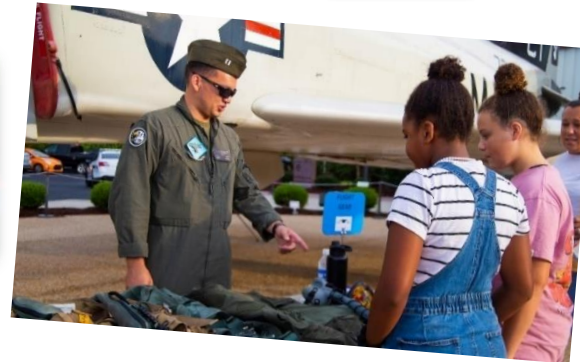
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Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation

NOVEMBER 2022



# Family Fly-In



# Thank you to all the STEM Presenters and Sponsors!

- Cherry Point EOD
- USMC MAG-14
- USMC 2<sup>nd</sup> MAW
- Greg Sabin "Flight Simulator"
- FRC-East
- City of Havelock  
Police Department
- Col Jimmie Green
- MGySgt Richard Hazlett
- Craven Community College  
Havelock Campus
- Havelock Fire & Rescue
- Coastal Pines Girl Scouts
- Civil Air Patrol
- Meteorologist Donnie Cox



**Tom & Susan  
Braaten**

**Brenda Wilson**

**Havelock**  
Tourist & Event Center



**Barry & Arlene  
Fetzer**



 **Tryon Palace**



**Save the Date:**

- 2023 Annual Gala - February 24, 2023
  - Middle School Camp – July 17-21, 2023
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Camp- July 24-28, 2023
  - Fly-In Movie & Stem Night - TBD
  - STEM Group Tours Available by Request
- Call 252-444-4348 or email us at [events@havelocknc.us](mailto:events@havelocknc.us)





# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Partnership Event

## October 12, 2022



The Fall Partnership is held to celebrate our members and sponsors. Six local caterers providing food for the event and Shortway Brewing provided samplings of 4 different kinds of the brewed creations. Guests enjoyed samplings from Class Act Catering, Havelock Tourist & Event Center, Moore's Olde Tyme Barbeque, Mucho Bueno, The Flame and Thee Catering. Please remember to patronize these fine businesses.

Hidden Treasures: Destinations that capture the unique spirit of Craven County

## Havelock Aviation Museum - 201 Tourist Center Dr.



Located at the Havelock Tourist and Event Center, the Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Museum highlights more than a century of flight technology that has helped define the Havelock-Cherry Point area. The aviation exhibits detail the aircraft U.S. Marines and other military aviators have flown in the past and continue to fly today. Visitors will learn the timeline of flight in eastern North Carolina, beginning at Kitty Hawk and continuing through the introduction of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter. Some of the aircraft on display include a Boeing F4B-3 replica, a Douglas A-4M Skyhawk, a Grumman A-6E Intruder, and a McDonnell RF-4B Phantom II.



**2023 ECAHF Gala**  
**Friday, February 24**

*Eastern NC's*  
*Best Kept Secret*  
*Presented by Mark Meno*

**Explore the past, present and future of FRC-East**

**Sponsorship opportunities are available. Proceeds from the event benefit Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation in efforts to inspire young learners to pursue new and exciting career pathways through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education.**

Enjoy a fun evening with a catered meal and a terrific presentation.

Tickets are \$60. For more information, email

[events@havelockevents.com](mailto:events@havelockevents.com) or call 252-444-4348

Mark your calendar now!

Doors Open @ 5:30pm

Dress: Business Casual

Location: Havelock Tourist & Event Center  
201 Tourist Center Drive, Havelock, NC

## Board of Directors

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## Spotlight an Exhibit



Left to right: LtCol Georges Leblanc III, ECAHF Vice-Chair, USMC, Ret., Maj Len Ingram, USMC, Ret., donor of the maquette and MGySgt Richard Hazlett, USMC, Ret., ECAHF Curator

Recently published by the VMAQ Monument Foundation:

*"If you're in eastern NC and wish to get a small taste of what the VMAQ Monument looks like, you can now head to the [Havelock Tourist & Event Center](#) and view an 18" maquette of the monument. Len Ingram generously donated his maquette to the [Eastern Carolina Aviation Heritage Foundation](#), which maintains the aviation exhibits there. A huge thanks to Len for his generosity in sharing the maquette for all to see!"*

The maquette is a replica of the large-scale, three-figure bronze monument "In Every Clime and Place" by sculptor Sandra Van Zandt. The monument is a dedication to those who served in the Marine Tactical Electronic Warfare squadrons for more than four decades. Van Zandt's sculpture represents a pilot, a mechanic and an electronic counter measures officer.

The final remaining EA-6B Prowler squadron was officially deactivated at a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point March 8, 2019, marking the end of an era.

# The CH-53 Sea Stallion and HMH-366: the Best of the Best

By Barry Fetzer, ECAHF Historian

“You cannot lead by memo, you cannot lead by shouting, you cannot lead by delegation of your responsibility -- you must lead by example.” --Gen. Charles C. Krulak, USMC.

The kind of leadership described by General Charles Krulak—leadership by example—is exactly what the CH-53E Super Sea Stallion and one of the employers of this superb weapons system, HMH-366, have done and continue to do. They lead by example.

Even as a former CH-46 “Frog” pilot, I have a special place in my heart for the CH-53E Super Sea Stallion. When I was the commanding officer of an Aviation Combat Element of a Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), the most capable, versatile weapons system in my aviation arsenal was the CH-53E. an aircraft we affectionately dubbed the “Super Shitter”.

Just as the CH-46’s nickname was the “Frog”, the CH-53—each version of it—was, is, and always will be a bit more indelicately nicknamed “Shitter”.

Despite its crude nickname, nothing about how the CH-53E flies is crude. Rude, perhaps, but not crude. It’s a superb a flying machine, designed, built, and operated expertly for its multi-missioned roles. Assigning the machine, a bawdy nickname—however indelicate—isn’t disrespectful. It’s accurate. The CH-53E goes about its business indelicately, arrogantly...even rudely...executing its missions forcefully...potently...enormously. It’s one of those aircraft that’s “out there”. It’s good at what it does, and it knows it.

Perhaps there’s someone out there with experiences from the early days of the operational life of the CH-53 Sea Stallion that can solve the mystery of its off-color nickname and get us from urban legend to facts. But regardless of the reason for the indiscreet nickname for the Super Sea Stallion, it is one talented and capable aircraft. Courtesy of the Marine Corps, here are some of its impressive official stats to prove it:

**Power plant: Three General Electric T64-GE-416 turboshaft engines producing 4380 shaft horsepower each**

**Length: 99 feet 5 inches**

**Height: 28 feet 4 inches**

**Rotor diameter: 79 feet**

**Speed: 172.5 miles per hour (150 knots)**

**Maximum takeoff weight:**

**Internal load: 69,750 pounds**

**External load: 73,500 pounds**

One of the units honored to maintain and fly this massive machine is Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-366 (HMH-366), the *Hammerheads*. The mission of HMH-366, like all Marine Corps heavy

helicopter squadrons, is to “provide assault support transport of combat troops, supplies and equipment during expeditionary, joint or combined operations. Be prepared for short-notice, worldwide employment in support of Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.” (Source: USMC)

According to the official USMC history of the *Hammerheads*, “HMH-366 was originally activated on 30 September 1994 as part of Aviation Support Element Kaneohe (ASEK) at MCAS Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. As the fourth active CH-53D Sea Stallion squadron, it was the only Hawaiian home-grown helicopter squadron in active service in the Marine Corps. The squadron's callsign ‘Hammerhead,’ was inspired by the fact that Kaneohe Bay is home to the world's largest hammerhead shark population, and the original unit patch featured a hammerhead shark leaping over an airborne CH-53D.

On 1 October 2000, with a limited number of available CH-53Ds in the Marine Corps, and no additional CH-53Ds being produced, the squadron was de-activated as part of a realignment plan to redistribute the units’ personnel and aircraft to the remaining three CH-53D squadrons in Hawaii (HMH-362, HMH-363, HMH-463), thereby increasing the Primary Authorized Aircraft (PAA) of those squadrons from eight to ten aircraft.

In January 2007, the President of the United States, on the recommendation of the Secretary Defense, announced that the Marine Corps would increase its end strength from 175,000 to 202,000 Marines by 2011. This increase is needed to provide adequate time to recover between deployments, train to meet combat readiness, and prepare for redeployment.

As part of this growth plan, it was determined through a HQMC study that additional heavy lift capabilities would be required in order to support the added personnel and equipment inherent to this growth.

HMH-366 was recommissioned and attained Initial Operational Capability on 1 Oct 2008, now with CH-53E “Super Sea Stallions” as its primary assigned weapons system.

HMH-366 was selected as the Marine Corps’ seventh CH-53E squadron, because it was the only active duty HMH to have been previously decommissioned. The original squadron patch was modified to replace the CH-53D with a CH-53E, and the colors were changed to reflect those of the North Carolina State Flag to reflect the squadron’s new air station being MCAS New River in Jacksonville, NC.



**The *Hammerheads*' squadron patch. Source: USMC**

The recommissioned squadron has also adopted the original motto of the *Hammerheads*: ‘NO’U KAPONO, O KO’U, MAHELE KOA’, which translated means: The Honor of my squadron in my own.”

In 2018 HMH-366 was named the USMC’s Heavy Helicopter Squadron of the Year, an honor bestowed only upon the “best of the best”.

Compiled and written by Barry R. Fetzer, ECAHF Historian



**Join us and help us honor North Carolina’s Aviation Heritage and enhance its future too!**

**<https://ecaviationheritage.com/>**





## Please Join ECAHF Each Year

ECAHF needs your support to share the story of the advancement of military aircraft and those who have made it possible in eastern North Carolina. Your membership helps to provide resources to encourage students to acquire science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) skills through interactive exhibits and programs.

Together, by joining forces as members of ECHAF, we will help honor Marines' vital mission in advancing military aviation, a mission they've accomplished since 1942 when MCAS Cherry Point was commissioned as a USMC airfield. In addition, your membership will help influence a new generation of aviation enthusiasts and skilled workers for the future. Be a part of this challenging and exciting mission.

### Annual Membership

- Co-Pilot (Student) \$25.00
- Pilot (Single) \$35.00
- Squadron (Family Membership) \$50.00
- Wing (Business/Group Membership) \$250.00

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

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

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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*Visa or MasterCard Only*

*252-444-4348*



Havelock Tourist & Event Center

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