



Courtesy of Amanda Edwards/PictureGroup

Allen Haff, left, and Clinton "Ton" Jones on the set of Spike TV's original series "Auction Hunters" at StorQuest on March 1 in Ontario, Calif.

## Warning: Spike TV's 'Auction Hunters' can be addictive

Every day more than 10,000 abandoned storage units are put up for public auction. For those who purchase them, the risks are high, but the financial rewards can be even higher. That is the premise of my new TV addiction, "Auction Hunters."

If you've never seen it, the show follows Allen Haff and Ton Jones, two of the best in the business as they navigate this extremely competitive world and uncover the treasures that people leave behind. The attraction for me is the combination of seeing the cool things Haff and Jones uncover and finding out how much money they make from them. It's the same combination that hooked Haff and Jones.

"It's addictive. It's a drug," Haff told me in a recent phone conversation. "I have to tell you the look in my eye is probably not that different than someone who's jonesing for a chemical," he said.

"For me, it is the everyday treasure hunt. I cannot sit behind a desk on a 9 to 5 and I applaud those who can," Jones told me. "I'm never going back to a regular job. I want to sit here, dig these units, go treasure hunting, have as much fun, goof off



Angela  
**HENDERSON-  
BENTLEY**

as much as possible and make a living doing it," he said.

Talking to these guys you realize how exciting auction hunting can be. But it's not all fun and games as things can get pretty ugly. Hunters have just minutes to stand outside a storage unit, try to guess what's inside and decide how much they're willing to bid. It looks extremely competitive on the show, but Haff told me it's even worse in real life.

"It gets very personal. If I take a room, or outbid you on a room, I'm taking money out of your mouth," Haff said. "I'm not exaggerating that this is a really cut-throat business, and it's bigger than money for a lot of people that we know," he said.

As much as both Haff and Jones try to avoid it, sometimes situations do get physical.

"Thank God we don't put that on the show because that's not the happy part of the business.

That's the ugly part of the business," Haff said. "Our show is about two guys who are buddies, who want to do well and who really like old stuff."

The duo is currently in production on season three, which will take the guys all across the country, including a trip to Alaska that has them both pretty excited.

"I can't believe that they're paying us to do this. I can't believe it," Haff said.

"Any day you can get up and have another road trip is another day you're having fun," Jones said. "I mean, the more of this world I can see, the happier I'm going to be when I die."

The second half of season two of "Auction Hunters" premieres at 10 p.m. Tuesday, July 19, on Spike TV.

For more from Haff and Jones, including their favorite episode, the truth about Quadzilla, and who they've invited to join them on a hunt, be sure to visit my blog.

**Angela Henderson-Bentley writes about television in her "Stay Tuned" blog at [www.herald-dispatch.com](http://www.herald-dispatch.com). Contact her at [ahendersonbentley@hotmail.com](mailto:ahendersonbentley@hotmail.com).**