

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER

June 2014

NEWSLETTER #26. EDITOR: JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

~~SCRATCH NEW ORLEANS~~

HERE COMES DAYTON, OH, 8-11 June 2015

FROM THE CHAIRMAN, William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. After much research and negotiation, it seems that in order to base our 2015 reunion in New Orleans, we would seemingly have to buy a chunk of the city. It is just too expensive for the majority of those interested in coming to the 2015 reunion -- it would keep many of our members from coming because of high costs, with daily amounts approaching \$250 per night (including room, breakfast, parking, and transportation, etc.)



So we put out the word on an email list of about 100 and the results were about 90% in favor of going to Dayton, Ohio. Dayton is centrally located, is within our budget, offers many perks, and has access to the

largest and greatest Air Force Museum in the world at nearby Wright-Patterson AFB. Our headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn/Fairborn, Fairborn, OH. Further details will be in our Dec 2014 newsletter and our website. <http://usradarsitesiceland.com/>

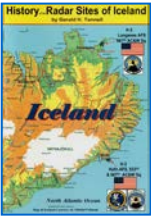
We will also put out monthly updates by email from the web site. Send your email address to me at littlechick@msn.com if you have changed, or not already given us, your email.

Finally, insert on your calendar the dates Monday, 8 June to Thursday, 11 June 2015 at the Holiday Inn/Fairborn. Start making reservations now by:

- **Calling: (937) 426-7800 or (937) 431-4644**
- **Be sure to tell them you are with the "Iceland Radar Reunion"**
- **A room for two with full breakfast costs \$105 plus tax**
- **For those planning to come early or stay late, the special reunion rate is good for 3 days before the 8th and 3 days after the 11th of June.**
- **Also, email or call Chick to let him know you are coming – that way he will be able to plan bus needs, nametags, hospitality supplies, banquet space, tour info, etc. littlechick@msn.com or 1-803-422-9486**

SCRAPBOOK CHAIRMAN. WC Chilton, H-1, 1961-62. I will have a new scrapbook ready for our next reunion; those with OK City photos please mail your 4X6" prints to me at: WC Chilton, 210 Parish Lane, McMinnville, TN 37110. Thanks again for showing confidence in me as your chairman. Until we meet again, stay safe and keep enjoying life.

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN – Help! Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Jerry May, our long-time photo chairman, has retired from this position – he has, over the last 9 years, faithfully posted somewhere around 2,000 photos, put them in order, and dutifully transcribed those with captions. So, we are still looking for a volunteer to take on this task. In the meantime, Reed Thomas is filling in. E-mail your photos to Reed at: reedt934@gmail.com Please provide a caption, including date taken, if known, so the photos can properly be labeled.



FROM THE HISTORIAN: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. We have a few dozen books in stock (*over 1,000 have already been sold or distributed*). It would make a good gift for your kids or grandchildren. They can be purchased for **\$10** including postage (our cost.) Order by mailing a check payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 1960-61. Please look up those old orders and pass them on to me. I know there are a couple thousand radar site vets out there, especially from the 50s, 60s, 70s, & 80s. Even if you just recall a name, please pass it on to me at: 2300 E. Silverado Ranch Blvd #1047, Las Vegas, NV, 89183.

My email address: blckjerr@aol.com Phone: 702-768-0080

WEBSITE DIRECTOR. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59.

If you haven't checked out our new Radar Website, please do so. Our web address is <http://usradarsitesiceland.com/>

Reed's email is: reedt934@gmail.com

TREASURER. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Our annual voluntary membership dues run \$15 per year. Make checks payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" and mail to William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036.

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NATO

THE WHITE FALCON

IDF

Headquarters, Iceland Defense Force, Keflavik Airport, Iceland Monday, 12 Jan xxxx

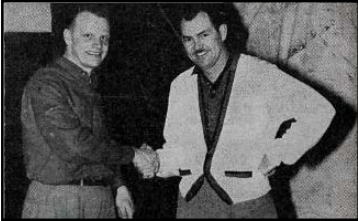
Edited by Jerry Tonnell

Do you remember seeing the above logo on the IDF newspaper named, *The White Falcon*? Lee Corbin, USN (Keflavik, 1975-76), was able to retrieve excerpts of copies of some of the past *White Falcon* issues that focused on news from the radar sites. They came from the decades of the 40s, 50s, 60s, and a handful from the 21st century. A few examples are on the following page:



H-3. Dec 1965. "It was 'service supreme' for the airmen at the 667th AC&W Sq (H-3), on Thanksgiving Day. Noncommissioned officers at the site were 'commissioned' cooks and waiters for the day and prepared and served the turkey dinner with trimmings to the airmen on the site. Getting his dinner on a 'silver platter' is A2C Joseph M. Willett."

H-4. Apr 1960. "Golf enthusiasts reporting to the 934th AC&W Sq (H-4), a remote radar site located in northwest Iceland, need not fear losing their golf coordination during their tour of duty at this site. March 19th



marked the opening of the indoor golf driving range, which was constructed by site personnel. The 10' by 15' cage was designed and fabricated by SSgt Durwood A. Huff of the Radar Maintenance Section...Maj Charles Agee, CO of the 934th congratulates Chaplain (Capt) William Flood after his drive which officially activated the range."



H-2. Sep 1966. The rented H-2 fishing camp on Lake Stora-Vidarvatn, located some 40 rough road miles away from the radar site, yielded a good catch this week. "E.F. White and W. L. Timmo provided proof by bringing back 15 fish weighing a total of 21 pounds and measuring in length from 19 to 21 inches." Mess Hall cooks have, in the past, been helping out by preparing the catch to be shared by all at the evening meal.

H-1. Oct 1961. "Passengers flying into Keflavik International Airport have been



commenting about that 'beautiful patch of green among all the rocks' that they see as their plane passes over the 932nd AC&W Sq, at Rockville, Iceland. Military personnel flying over this small island are suddenly brought a little closer to home as they look down on this small, remote squadron. For what they see is the newest and best softball field in the North Atlantic – Pietryka Park."

H-1. Apr 2002. "For a half-century, the 932nd Air Control Squadron (ACS) has proudly and successfully provided air defense for Iceland and the North Atlantic. This May, to mark that milestone, the squadron is planning to celebrate their 50th anniversary of being the first line of air defense for the region... Originally, there were four AC&W squadrons



manning each of the radar sites on the four corners of the island; the 667th, 933rd, and 934th, as well as the 932nd AC&W Sq. However, over the years, technological advances allowed all command and control functions to consolidate

to the 932nd, the last unit of its kind... In those heady days, escorting Soviet Bear bombers as they passed by Iceland, to and from Cuba, was an everyday occurrence." To date, over 3,000 Soviet bombers were intercepted while flying in Icelandic military airspace.

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December 2014

NEWSLETTER #27. EDITOR: JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

DAYTON is Just Around the Corner: 8-11 June 2015

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Plans are complete for what may promise to be the best reunion so far. The schedule of events will keep us busy, yet provide plenty of time to relive our days at the radar sites -- our Hospitality Room will be in the capable hands of Andy Holzinger and William Greenawalt. Our headquarters hotel will be the Holiday Inn/Fairborn, Fairborn, OH. Any update between now and June will be on our website. <http://usradarsitesiceland.com/> **Y'all Come! Hear!**

Hotel Reservations: Monday, 8 June to Thursday, 11 June 2015 at the Holiday Inn/Fairborn. Start making reservations now by:



- Calling: (937) 431-4613 or 1 (800) 465-4329
- Be sure to tell them you are with the "Iceland Radar Reunion"
- A room for two with full breakfast costs \$105 plus tax
- For those planning to come early or stay late, the special reunion rate is good for 3 days before the 8th & 3 days after the 11th.
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Payment for All Events. The "All Events" fee for two, including registration, buses, breakfast on Tues, Wed & Thurs, IMAX show, Picnic, Pizza Supper, Banquet and all tours amounts to \$240 – or \$120 for one person. Deadline: 1 May 2015. (*You may also register your guests.*) Cancellations are accepted up to 30 days prior to the reunion. Make checks payable to "Iceland Reunion" - mail to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036.

Schedule of Events.

Monday, 8 June. Registration begins. The Hospitality Room opens at Noon at the Hotel and will be open before and after each tour every day – it shuts down at Noon on Thurs, October 11th.

Tuesday, 9 June. After free breakfast: **0830-0845** the buses leave from the hotel for the Museum.

0900-0920, at the Memorial Service (Chaplain & Bugler) by our New Plaque at Memorial Wall #2.

0920-1030, attempt to have a Group Photo, and then a Self-Tour of Memorial Gardens.

1030-1100, Maj Gen Cooper (tentative short talk on EC-121 by plane -- AEW555)

1100, Self-tour & lunch in museum Café – lunch is on your own. **1300**, IMAX— cost included in registration fee. **1445-1500**, Load 3 buses (**bring a picture ID**) to go to the Presidential Hangar at Visitor Drop Off. **1500-1600**, Presidential Aircraft Hangar tour and viewing.

1600, Drop off museum bus volunteers at museum & then depart for Holiday Inn.

1800, Pizza party, salad, and drink (included in registration fee.) Hospitality room reopens.

Wednesday, 10 June. After free breakfast: **0900**, Depart hotel -- buses to take us to Dayton Aviation National Historical Park, Huffman Field Interpretive Center, & Wright-Patterson AFB.

1100, Depart for Carillon Historical Park: The Park features 30+ buildings housing the history of the area -- some walking required. They have limited wheel chairs and golf carts.

1200, Picnic in the park- sandwich, etc (included in registration fee.) **1430**, Depart park for hotel.

1500, Hospitality room reopens

1800-1830, Reception - Holiday Inn. 1830-1835, Presentation of the Colors.

1835-2000, Business Meeting Dinner (included in registration fee) with Guest Speaker, Lt Col Joe Richardson, USAF (Ret), last Commander of the 932nd ACS (2005-06.)

2000-2100, Glenn Miller Show by Gem City Band

Thursday, 11 June. After free breakfast: The Hospitality Room closes at Noon. We bid Farewell.

SCRAPBOOK CHAIRMAN. WC Chilton, H-1, 1961-62. I will have a new scrapbook ready for our Dayton reunion; those with OK City photos please mail your 4X6" prints to me at: WC Chilton, 210 Parish Lane, McMinnville, TN 37110. Thank you for allowing me to be your scrapbook chairman.

FROM THE HISTORIAN: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. We have some Iceland Radar History books in stock (*over 1,100 have already been distributed.*) It would make a good Xmas gift for your kids or grandchildren. The price is **\$10** including postage (our cost.) Order by mailing a check payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036



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More Tidbits From *White Falcons* of the Past

Having scoured through several years of the available online copies of the *White Falcon*, I came upon a few more articles of interest. Jerry Tonnell, Editor

1959, Feb 6, *White Falcon*. H-4. Accident Calls Out Low Flying Aircraft Help!

Wind, rain, snow and ice didn't halt the mercy mission to H-4 last Sunday, but they did have their hampering effects. An emergency call early Sunday morning sent an L-20 from Keflavik Airport to the remote radar site at the northwest tip of the island....to rescue a 64-year-old Icelandic electrician named Jon Albertsson, who had fractured his skull... Take-off shortly after noon was hampered by a 22 knot wind... pilots Captains I.B. Hughs and H. E. Nelson found the 1400-foot landing strip swept with winds up to 35 knots at 90 degrees... When the plane was safely on the ground, parked facing into the wind to keep it right side up, another portion of the battle against weather began ... the 934th AC&W Squadron started a two-hour process of clearing the road and bringing the... employee 1400 feet down to the strip in a Snow Cat... With an 800-foot ceiling, rain showers and turbulence, the L-20 climbed off the landing strip to 500 feet and trekked on to Isafjordur... the town's landing strip turned out to be a water covered, 800-foot pasture ... Patient delivered, the pilots set out for Keflavik, with a storm brewing ahead of them... but head winds held the small craft to 50 miles in an hour and a half. Finally they ...brought the plane down out of the strong winds... at Keflavik, with ten minutes of fuel left aboard... Throughout the mission, the L-20 had a "guardian angel" in the form of a C-47 flying cover, piloted by Lt. Col. Thayer C. Harper, Operations Group commander. Later word, unfortunately, came in that the patient had died...



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1958, Apr 19, White Falcon. H-3. Hofn Observes Third Year! "The 933 ACW Squadron



Photo by Charles Towner

at Hofn, Iceland, celebrated its third anniversary with a squadron party held in the mess hall on March 28. Highlights of the party included the cutting of a ... anniversary cake by Capt. Richard B. Ginster, squadron commander. It was on April 13, 1955 that three NCO's were flown to Hofn and billeted in the then recently completed permanent barracks. On April 18 of that year the 933rd was activated by Headquarters MATS, with Capt. James W. Thwing as acting commander."

1959, Feb 20, White Falcon. H-2 Beard Growing Contest!



Photo by the White Falcon

"The 667th AC&W Squadron, Langes Air Force Station, Iceland, has a good deal of snow during the winter months, but these airmen have well protected faces; the result of a squadron beard growing contest. (Left to right) Standing — A/1C Martin J. Nolan, Jr., A/2C Joseph A. Geiger, Jr., A/3C Michael R. Russell, and A/3C Jacob Segaloff.

Kneeling — A/2C Richard Mooney, A/2C David A. Tweedy, A/3C William Alborn, and A/2C Neal R. Rowan."

1967, Nov 3, White Falcon. H-1. New Rockville

Console Designed By Local NCOs.

"The 932nd AC&W Squadron's Communication and Electronics section dedicated a new



Photo By Bob Bolton, 1974-75

maintenance control console on Friday, Oct. 20. The 5' by 8' console was designed and built entirely by Technical Sergeants George Keith and Dale Quackenbush of the 932nd Maintenance and Repair section. Using available plywood and especially ordered Plexiglas, the two NCO's worked on the console in addition to their regular assigned duties and still completed it 10 days before the target date of Oct.

30. The new console... is designed to provide quick and easy access to the status of all Rockville's communication - electronic equipment. All the charts on the console are covered by quarter-inch Plexiglas, which allows the control technician to make immediate status changes with "grease pencils." The console is manned 24 hours a day and serves as the focal point for all C&E maintenance... The console tells a viewer at a quick glance the maintenance technicians available, equipment status, equipment out-of-service for 24 hours periods, and scheduled preventative maintenance and overhaul times for a two-month period."

1968, May 3, White Falcon. H-1. Rockville NCO Club Activities:

FRIDAY, MARCH 1—Dance to the sounds of the American Band from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2—Dance to the music of the Echo Band from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3—Buffet dinner, all you can eat for \$1.25 from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5—Old Fitz and Beam's choice 10 cents from 4:30 until 11:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6—Cutty Sark scotch and Falstaff 10 cents from 4:30 until 11:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7—Rum and coke, and Ceres beer 10 cents from 4:30 until 11:30 p.m.



Photo by Ken Walsh

2006, Feb 16, White Falcon. Rockville Air Control & Warning Station: the end of an era.

"The homemade rock sign identifies the military facility that was used as an aviation warning station which will remain as the rest is demolished." (Note: The 932nd relocated to Keflavik Naval Air Station in 1998. Member Fridthor Kr. Eydal was the Public Affairs Officer for IDF when this issue was printed.)