

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND

NEWSLETTER, July 2018

NEWSLETTER #34. EDITOR: JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Sixty-three members and guests enjoyed our visit to the Memphis area. The two hotels worked out great. We had two nice hospitality rooms full of snacks and drinks. We gave Iceland plaques to most of the vendors to remember us by -- each said that no group had ever done this for them before. Memphis Reunion photos are already showing up on the web site. Lots more photos are coming. Give me until mid-July or so and if you want them let me know. My memory is failing so help me ID some of the photos we have. If you have a photo of yourself send it to me so I can put it with the photos I am sending to the web site. **Ruthann Couch** will take over the balance of money we have on hand. **Joe Pyrdek** is working on how to take over our web site. Our Radar Site Photo Scrapbooks were sent to Memphis by Scrapbook Chairman, **W. C. Chilton**. No one took them back so I ended up with all the books. We need to think about donating them to some military museum.

Let me know your thoughts on this idea?

Folks! I put on a good face but I was hurting all the while we were there. This Parkinson's has changed my life. I won't be able to plan another reunion. **Sandra Evans** will help if we decide to have another one.

I need feedback on this, so let me know your thoughts?

I talked to many folks about the future of our organization. It was suggested that since we have had a good run, it may be time to quit?

Look into this idea and please reply.

Several stepped up and said they would like try to hold one more. It was suggested we go to St Louis -- it has the Gateway Arch, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, world-famous Zoo, Science Center, Grant's Farm, riverboat dinner-cruises, baseball at Busch Stadium, Mundy Outdoor Opera, & Scott AFB outdoor aircraft museum, etc.

If a reunion was scheduled for St Louis, would you consider attending? Let us know.

In our December issue of the newsletter we will give you all the details. littlechick@msn.com

Three Iceland Radar Vets Presented the Quilt of Valor.



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU. A Quilt of Valor was presented to me by the Iceland Radar Sites Reunion on 31 May 2018. I was deeply honored and felt highly regarded by the assembled group at the reunion. It is a wonderful red, white and blue quilt and beautifully done. I want to thank all who were involved with the award and will cherish the quilt the rest of my days. Thanks to everyone. **Douglas A. Harper**, Colonel, USAF Retired, Commander of Hofn, Iceland AC&W Squadron in 1972. 1116 Deer Haven Lane, Lexington, KY 40509, 1-859-543-9277.

TREASURER. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Our annual voluntary membership dues run \$15 per year. We still need funds to help pay for the website & this newsletter. Make checks payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" and mail it to William Chick, 3021 Frost Meadow Way, Fort Mill, SC 29707. His email is: littlechick@msn.com

WEBSITE DIRECTOR. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. We have added over 210 new names to our data bank during this year, mostly coming from research of past *White Falcon* newspapers. Check out our Radar Website for updates: <http://usradarsitesiceland.com/> Reed's email is: reedt934@gmail.com

FROM THE HISTORIAN. Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. If you would like to order a copy of our *History of the Radar Sites of Iceland* book, please do so -- we have 22 books remaining in stock of our 14th & final printing. The price is \$10 including postage. To order, mail a check payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" to: William Chick, 3021 Frost Meadow Way, Fort Mill, SC 29707.

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN. Joe Pyrdek, H-3, 1967-68. If you have any pictures you would like to provide to the gallery, including ones from the 2015 Dayton, 2017 Tucson, & 2018 Memphis Reunion, please send them on to me, Joe Pyrdek, by e-mail attachments to jpyrdek@zoominternet.net for electronic images. All picture formats (.jpg, .tiff, .png, etc.) can be accommodated. Please provide the original full size image and not a compressed or resized smaller image. If you scan them before sending them to me, please use a minimum of 300 DPI resolution to obtain the higher quality end product.

WHAT HAPPENED AT MEMPHIS?

NOTE: Ruthann Couch contributed the below comments as to what happened at the Memphis Reunion. She graciously pitched in for me as I was not able to attend. Jerry Tonnell, Newsletter Editor.

Wednesday, May 30. Folks checked in throughout the day in both the Hampton Inn and the Fairfield Inn Hospitality Rooms. **William and Connie Chick** worked the Registration Tables. The Hospitality Rooms had plenty of water, soda, chips, muffins, cookies, and nuts. The hotels did not have a liquor license and would not allow us to serve alcohol in the Hospitality Rooms but our goody bags included 2 cans of beer and 2 small bottles of wine. **William Chick** presented an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque to **Allyson Boggan** at Cline Tours that provided our bus transportation for the reunion. Allyson was very excited. She said this was the first reunion group plaque that she had ever received and that she will display it proudly on the office wall. **Ruthann Couch, James Barto,**



William Chick, and Peter Holland, presented an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque to **Teresa Smoot**, the Hampton Inn Manager, and another plaque to the two Hampton Inn desk clerks. They were very appreciative. We were treated to Burger King Cheeseburgers and chicken sandwiches for dinner and **Chick** worked out a great price that included a veteran's discount. At 8 pm, we gathered in the Fairfield Inn Hospitality Room, which was the larger of the two Hospitality Rooms. **Howard and Marty Behren** showed slides of **Howard** ferrying a Cessna 172 from Albuquerque to Reykjavik in 1984 and of their drive around the coast of Iceland, including Whale Bay, the fish drying racks and bubbling mud pots. It was extremely interesting and brought back a flood of memories. Thank you **Howard and Marty!**

Thursday, May 31. We boarded the buses and headed for the Ground Zero Blues Club in Clarksdale, MS, the Blues Capital of the World. We enjoyed a pulled pork BBQ sandwich lunch at the Café Ground Zero and were entertained by keyboard player and blues singer **Lala Craig**, who could really belt out the blues. We were all surprised, as was Lala, when her keyboard and microphone collapsed on the floor in the middle of a song but the staff quickly got everything squared away and the music continued. She played some of her original songs and some songs that we all knew. Prior to the music, **Roy Shelly, Joseph Reeves and Colonel Douglas Harper** presented an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque to the Ground Zero Manager **Lisa** for display at the establishment. Ground Zero encourages folks to write their name on any surface in the club and there was plenty of graffiti that gave it a unique feel. Ground Zero is owned by **Morgan Freeman, Bill Luckett** and **Howard Stovall** and there are several interesting Iceland "connections" with the club. **Bill Luckett** is the former mayor of Clarksdale and Past Commander of American Legion, Post 28. His son, **Oliver**, lives in Reykjavik. **Bill** addressed our group and proudly displays the Icelandic flag at the blues club.



Chick presented an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque to **Bill Luckett** as a token of our appreciation. **Larry Robin** introduced **Tom Jones**, who is a retired WO-4 and past Commander of American Legion, Post 28. He served in the US Navy at Keflavik and worked for the Armed Forces News Radio there. It is a small world! After lunch and the blues, we headed for Tunica, MS and the Gold Strike Casino for a little gambling and dinner. There was a little snafu with the dinner coupons for the Pickle and Jam Eatery because the contact person that **Chick** had worked with, was fired the week before our visit and no one at the Casino knew about the dinner coupons.

Chick got it sorted out and the food was good and we received \$5 in free slot play. Nobody got rich but nobody lost their shirt either. After a few hours at the Gold Strike, we headed back to the hotel and the Hospitality Rooms. We were extremely happy to present Colonel Douglas Harper with a "Quilt of Valor" in appreciation for his sacrifice and service to the United States of America. William Chick had done the leg work to get the quilt and Ruthann Couch read Colonel Harper's impressive biography while Peter Holland and Dwyte Evans wrapped Colonel Harper in a "Quilted Hug of Gratitude." Colonel Harper served 23 years in the USAF and held his first command assignment as the Commander at Hofn (H-3) in 1972. Fred Engle and Lowry Ratcliff presented an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque to Katherine Charlton, Manager of the Fairfield Inn, and she thanked us for our service to our country and for being such great guests. After a busy day, folks stuck around the Hospitality Rooms and shared memories and stories of their time in Iceland.



Friday, June 1. The group boarded the buses for Beale Street, also known as "Home of the Blues," where we had about an hour to walk around. We were dropped off by the statue of "The King" (Elvis Presley). Beale Street was quiet in the morning and it was easy to walk up and down the street to read the historical signs and peer into the numerous clubs and businesses, such as BB King's Blues Club, A. Schwab's Soda Fountain, Lansky Brothers Clothiers, Rum Boogie Café, the Blue Note Alley, the Tin Roof, & Club Hand. The sidewalk featured the names of many famous musicians and there was a variety of guitar art along the street. Some expanded their exploring by walking to the famous Peabody Hotel, Auto Zone Baseball Park, the Gibson Guitar Company (currently going through bankruptcy) and the FedEx Forum. We all headed to the BB King Café for a terrific buffet lunch that featured catfish and pulled pork. Our live entertainment at the café was canceled a few weeks back, but we did a great job of entertaining ourselves. It turns out that June 1st is a memorable day for some of our folks. Larry Robin turned 84, Gene Couch turned 82, and Joseph & Carol Reeves celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The Birthday Boys and the Anniversary Couple were treated to a peach cobbler with vanilla ice cream to celebrate the events. Congratulations! We returned to the hotel and had a few hours before heading back to Memphis for the evening. We boarded the buses and headed back into Memphis for the banquet at the Rock and Soul Museum. It was fantastic! While there, we presented Toni Bell an Iceland Radar Sites Reunion plaque for display at the museum. Prior to dinner, a film explaining the history of music in Memphis was shown and it was great. Larry Robin took a few minutes and talked about the past reunions and how much fun they have been. Chaplain



Chip Norton said grace and we then proceed to the buffet dinner which was terrific featuring grilled chicken, shrimp & grits, macaroni & cheese, green salad and steamed vegetables. It was delicious. The bus drivers were able to take home several meals because there was so much great food left over. After dinner, we were able to tour the museum with headsets to listen to each display and it was extremely informative. There was a marquee in the museum welcoming the "Iceland Radar Sites." We returned to the hotel and congregated in the Hospitality Room for our farewell evening. Colonel Harper showed off the Aerospace Defense Command "A" Award for H-3 in 1972. Colonel Harper had given out tickets for a series of drawings for items that he had brought from home including needlepoint pictures, most of which he had done himself, and fishing floats and other trinkets. It was a great way to end another successful reunion.

We also presented a plaque to Holly Townsend McElyea, Small Meeting Sales Manager for the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau for all her assistance with our stay in Memphis.

This is **the last reunion that William Chick** will be able to organize due to his Parkinson's disease. He has done a wonderful job and we owe him a huge THANK YOU! We cannot forget about Chick's team over the years: Larry Robin, Reed Thomas, Jerry May, Jerry Tonnell, Joe Pyrdek, WC Chilton, Pappy Papworth, John Tianen, Ed Morris, David Hawk (deceased), Jerry Blackwell (deceased), Fred Schulte (deceased) and Connie Chick. They have all spent time and effort to make our Iceland Radar Site reunions special. Thank You! **Note:** Dwyte Evans & wife Sandra volunteered to help organize the next reunion if we decide to have another one next year or in 2 years.



I am still saving sheriff and police patches
Thanks for send one to me from your area.

Iceland Radar Sites Reunion
William Chick, Chairman
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3021 Frost Meadow Way
Indian Land, SC 29707

ICELAND REUNION
932-933-934-667

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NEWSLETTER, December 2018

Newsletter #35. Editor: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959.

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

will be the location of our 2019 US Radar Sites of Iceland Reunion

When?

Wednesday, 24 Apr to Saturday, 27 Apr 2019



ACCOMMODATIONS:

Our Reunion Events Chairperson, Sandra Evans, has secured a top notch hotel for our reunion -- and it is really nice. We will stay at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac at 1335 Lindbergh Blvd, St. Louis, MO. 63131. Website: www.stlouisfrontenac.hilton.com
For **Reservations**, call either:

1 (314) 824-6033 and ask for April, or,
1 (314) 824-6031 and ask for Candace

Room rates are \$129 plus tax for a king or queen. We will get vouchers for their first class **breakfast buffet**. There is **free parking** and there are lots of ground level rooms.

START MAKING YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW !!

- Tell them you are with the "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion."

In addition, we will have a beautiful Hospitality room that we can stock with drinks and snacks.



Hilton St Louis, Frontenac, Missouri

HELP!!

Despite the fact that many of our members have recently generously supported our treasury, the point is that our Radar Association Treasury is still suffering some hunger pains. As of right now, we only have enough money to print two more snail-mail Newsletters – this Newsletter and the one next June. While we have enough funds to continue our website for another three years, it doesn't look good beyond that. In short, we really need some more donations to shore up the coffers. Even though we have recently received a charitable donation of \$500 from one of our vets, that sum is in the process of being absorbed by the costs of the website repair and the newsletters. One problem is that many vets have not donated their voluntary \$15 annual dues. PLEASE CONTRIBUTE WHAT YOU CAN!

TREASURER: Ruthann Couch, H-1, 1975-76. Our annual voluntary membership dues run \$15 per year. Make checks payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" and mail it to:

Ruthann Couch
3250 Whitbeck Blvd
Eugene, OR 97405-1938

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN Joe Pyrdek, H-3, 1967-68. If you have any pictures you would like to provide to the gallery, including ones from the 2015 Dayton, 2017 Tucson, & 2018 Memphis Reunion, please send them on to me, Joe Pyrdek, by e-mail attachments to jpyrdek@zoominternet.net for electronic images. All picture formats (.jpg, .tiff, .png, etc.) can be accommodated. Please provide the original full size image and not a compressed or resized smaller image. If you scan them before sending them to me, please use a minimum of 300 DPI resolution to obtain the higher quality end product.

HISTORY BOOKS AND COINS. We sold out our last book printing in August. So a decision was made to order **50 more – over 40 are still available**. So far, we have sold or distributed about 1,500 since our first printing in 2002. We also have 18 coins left. The price of each item is the same -- \$10. Make your check out to ICELAND REUNION and mail to: **William Chick, 3021 Frost Meadow Way, Fort Mill, SC 29707**

WE NEED YOUR CORRECT SNAIL-MAIL & EMAIL ADDRESSES!!

Every time we snail-mail a copy of our Newsletter, there are a few hundred that never reach their destination. The same is true when we send out the Newsletter via email. As a result, we lose money because we have to pay the postage. Therefore, PLEASE send me your correct snail-mail and email address (*if you have one*) so that we don't pour our meager supply of money down the drain. Also, let us know if you would like the newsletter via email --that would help to save a lot on stamps and printing costs. Just send your correct addresses to: littlechick@msn.com

UPDATE on our WEBSITE. William Chick reports that the site that was down because of hackers is now **partially** up again. We have selected our web host & have switched to "HostGater." Work continues to restore the full site. But, it's a slow-moving process.



Sad News. Radar pioneer, former commander of 8 of our WW 2 radar stations, and elder statesman of our membership, **Col Frank E. Herrelko, USAF (Ret)**, passed on at the age of **105** in Oct 2018.

“TENTATIVE” SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, 24 April. Registration. The Hospitality Room will open at noon.

Thursday, 25 April. We will visit the **Anheuser-Busch Brewery** facility with a tour of the Lager Room -- plus plenty of time to visit and shop at the gift store. A free lunch will be provided.



Next, we Depart about 2:30 PM and experience a drive through the historic **Jefferson Barracks**. This facility was an active U.S. Army installation from 1826 through 1946. It was America's major military facility during the time our country made its westward expansion. It is the oldest operating military post west of the Mississippi River, and is now used as a base for the

Army and Air National Guard. We will then return to the hotel for free time that evening. Your supper meal will be on your own. The Hospitality Room will then reopen.

Friday, 26 April. On this day we will be visiting the **Gateway Arch** and its **Arch Museum**.



A free lunch will be included. **Friday** night we will have our banquet via a river boat **Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi**.



Saturday, 27 April. The Hospitality Rooms remains open until noon. Depart, & Bon Voyage!

- For Schedule of Events questions, call Sandra Evans at: 1 (662) 283-2200

The “ALL EVENTS” COST is \$175 per person. The” All Events” includes: hospitality room, buses, tour of the Arch and Arch Museum, lunches on both tour days, and the banquet as well as the ride aboard the River Boat. Write your All Events check to **ICELAND REUNION & send them to:**

Ruthann Couch
3250 Whitbeck Blvd
Eugene, OR 97405-1938

A **SIGN-UP SHEET** is found on our Website <http://usradarsitesiceland.com/>
-- go to the Newsletters section and then open the **September News Release**.

EARLY ARRIVAL OR LATE DEPARTURE. For those who wish to arrive before or stay after the reunion, the Hilton St Louis at Frontenac has agreed to honor our special room rates, including the breakfast, for 3 days prior and 3 days after our regular reunion dates. Many additional tourists' sites are available in addition to the ones on our schedule. Here is one example: The world famous **St Louis Zoo**.

