

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER

June 2011

NEWSLETTER #20. EDITOR, JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Thanks to all those who made Nashville a huge success -- the committee staff, those working registration, hospitality, and to all 186 in attendance. If you had not come, the work would have been in vain. Our next task is to update our records. If you have a new mailing or email address, please let us know. Too many of our emails and Newsletters are returned for lack of a proper destination. This increases the cost of our operation. We also need to start working on our next reunion to be held in 2013 -- thus far, four locations are in the running: Oklahoma City, OK, Ogden, UT, St Louis, MO, and Laughlin, NV. By December of this year, we will have a complete list of reunion sites from which to choose. In our December 2011 Newsletter, we will provide information as to how you can vote, not only for the site of your choice, but also indicate the most convenient month(s) of the year for the reunion.



Above photo (by Connie Chick) shows less than half of those who attended the reunion.

TREASURER. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Special thanks to those who have paid their annual voluntary dues of \$15 per year-- due each June 1st. **Presently, not enough of our membership is sending in voluntary dues.** Without more support, our Treasury will run dry in slightly more than two years -- please make your \$15 check out to "Iceland Reunion" & mail to:

David Hawk, 500 N. Ash St., Pauls Valley, OK 73075.

E-MAIL or SNAIL-MAIL THE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS? To cut down costs, we are trying to find out how many of our members would prefer to have our twice-a-year newsletters sent to them via e-mail and how many want a snail mail version.

To do this you have to let us know the following, 1) your current email address, and 2) in what form you want the newsletter (i.e., email or snail mail.) Contact either Reed Thomas at reed934@yahoo.com or William Chick at littlechick@msn.com

HISTORIAN. Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. In early June, 2010, we printed another batch of books (8th printing.) Since 2003, almost 800 have been distributed --



mostly to our members. But, a few dozen have been presented to various military and national libraries or museums, applicable major command headquarters, and to reunion host city authorities. Books cost **\$10** *including* postage (our cost.) Write checks to "Iceland Reunion" and mail to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63.

mayjw60@suddenlink.net We are still in need of new photos for our website. If possible, E-mail them - please provide a caption, with date, if known, so we can properly label the picture.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN. Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 1960-61. If you have any old orders with names or if you recall a name please pass it on to me at: 2300 E. Silverado Ranch Blvd #1047, Las Vegas, NV, 89183. email BkckJerr@aol.com

ADMINISTRATOR and WEBSITE DIRECTOR. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Our Site address is www.usradarsitesiceland.org No need for a password or to sign-in. Thus far, we have over 4,600 names in our data bank. My home address is: 9001 Sweetbrook Lane #104, Raleigh, NC 27615. My phone number is: (919) - 846- 4764.

SLATE of our OFFICERS through 2013. A confirmation vote was taken at the business meeting in Nashville.

Association Officers: Chairman: William Chick, Deputy Chairman: Larry Robin, Director of Admin & Website: Reed Thomas, Treasurer: David Hawk.

Executive Committee: Sq Commander Coordinator: Col Doug Harper, 1952 Trailblazers Squadron: Jack Hamilton, Membership Chairman: Jerry Blackwell, Web Photo Chairman: Jerry May, Memorabilia Chairmen: David & Judy Alcorn, Historian and Newsletter Editor: Jerry Tonnell, Hospitality Chairman: Fred Schulte, Scrapbook Chairmen: H-1 – Herbert Anderson; H-2 – Fred Cizek; H-3 – Dan Hopwood; and, H-4 – Reed Thomas, Scrapbook Chairman Emeritus: W C Chilton.

At Large Members: H-1, Andy Holzinger and Pappy Papworth; H-2, Matz Malone and Michael Bonjo; H-3, Joe Pyrdek and Ed Vitatoe; H-4, David Gillespie and Cameron Davis.

WHAT HAPPENED AT NASHVILLE?

BY JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

Monday, 30 May 2011. By Monday afternoon, nearly all of the 98 vets & 88 spouses had arrived & begun socializing in the Hospitality Room at the Gaylord Radisson Hotel. The Hospitality Room became the focal point because it was there that we renewed old friendships and made new acquaintances. Our past remembrances were triggered by the many volumes of radar site scrapbooks scattered throughout the room. Under the leadership of Fred Schulte, H-1, 62-63, Jerry May, H-1, 62-63, and Ron 'Pappy' Papworth, H-1, 62-63, the room was well stocked with the following: soda, beer, spirits, ice, munchies, and plenty of tall tales. The Registration package included free pens, classy nametags, and some promotional info about future reunions. That evening we were bused to the **Wildhorse Saloon** where we enjoyed an excellent barbeque buffet meal and took in a good country western show. Some folks left a little early & walked or rented a horse-drawn carriage for a tour around the heart of downtown Nashville.

Tuesday, 31 May 2011. On Tuesday morning, we assembled for our Breakfast Business Meeting. Before the food was served, several plaques were presented to key



Fred Schulte
Posting the Colors

members of the Hotel staff for their excellent work in hosting our reunion. After that, the posting of the colors, opening prayer, National Anthem, and introductory remarks were delivered by Fred Schulte, H-1, 62-63, W. C. Chilton, H-1, 62-63, Reed Thomas, H-4, 58-59, and MC Larry Robin, H-1, 64-65. Next, Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959, introduced our guest speaker, Col Tom Garza, and his wife Becky. Col Garza was the Commander of the 932nd from 1995-97. In his presentation, he highlighted the challenges of moving H-1 from Rockville to Keflavik while keeping both units operationally ready. He attributed that achievement to the men and women who manned the squadron during those trying times -- people he described as among the best in the USAF. Next, came the business meeting. David Hawk, H-1,

85-86, gave a detailed Treasurer's report. After that, nominations were received for all of the Executive Committee positions -- a motion was made and passed to continue the present committee until our next meeting. This was followed by announcing the names of three "west-of-the-Mississippi" finalist locations for the 2013 Reunion: Oklahoma City, OK, Ogden, UT, and Laughlin, NV. In later discussions, another location, St Louis, MO, was proposed. Rich Banta, H-3, 1984, gave a briefing on the plans to establish a Radar Museum in Ohio. I'm sure we will see more on this in the future. The meeting ended and many retreated to the Hospitality Room and awaited the buses for the trip to the **Grand Ole Opry** for an excellent show -- a good time was had by all.

Wednesday, 1 June 2011. Once again, we boarded the buses, this time for a short trip to the river that turned out to be the highlight activity of the reunion. We stepped onto the 300-foot **General Jackson Riverboat**. We were serenaded by a joke-telling, guitar-playing twosome on the upper deck. Then we went down two decks to the grand ball room where we were thoroughly entertained by *Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Band* -- a group that demonstrated superb picking perfection. Wow! The meal that followed was first class in every sense. Before leaving, we gathered on the forecandle deck while Connie Chick took a group photo -- when spliced together, it will be posted on our website. Finally, it was time for the end of a most successful reunion, as we said our goodbyes and bid fond farewells and departed for home on June the 2nd.

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER

December 2011

NEWSLETTER #21. EDITOR, JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. Nashville is over and, from the letters I received afterward, I would say everyone had a great time. Our committees did a superb job putting on this reunion. Thanks goes out to all who donated to help pay expenses for our newsletters and site selection. Yes, I was voted in as your chairman again -- I appreciate the faith you all have in me and our team. Looking to the future, as we promised several years ago, we would try to balance our reunion sites so we would alternate them east and west of the Mississippi River. Therefore, we have come up with 4 recommended sites in the west for our 2013 reunion – Oklahoma City; Ogden, Utah; Laughlin, NV; and St Louis.



As in the past, we will let the members decide with the site getting the most votes declared the winner. However, we will need suggestions on the month of the year for the reunion (refer to the voting instructions on the next page.)

The older we get

the more we hear of our members' deaths and illnesses. Let's pray we stay healthy so we can meet again soon.

TREASURER. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Thank all of you for the tremendous response to our last request for donations. The treasury balance is now \$11,500.00. I have added listings of Life Members and Annual Contributors to the website. Go to the site home page, select "Library", and then select "Documents". Annual Contributors show the paid through year. Contributions received after December 1st will be credited to 2012. Make checks payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" & mail to David Hawk, 500 N Ash Street, Pauls Valley, OK, 73075. Phone:405- 238- 0151.

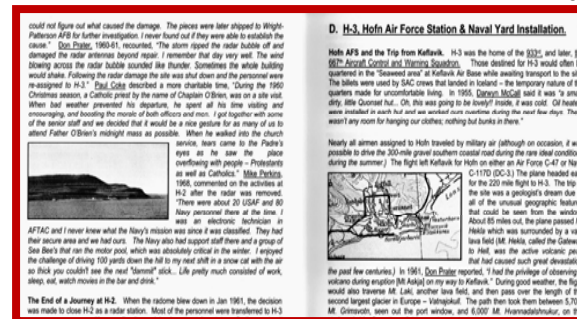
My email address is: davidhawk511@gmail.com.

E-MAIL or SNAIL-MAIL THE FUTURE NEWSLETTERS? To reduce mailing & publishing costs, we would like to know how many of our members would prefer to have our twice-a-year newsletters sent to them via e-mail versus how many want a regular snail mail version. To do this you have to let us know the following, 1) your current email address, and 2) in what form you want the newsletter (i.e., email or snail mail.) Contact either Reed Thomas at reed934@yahoo.com or William Chick at littlechick@msn.com

2013 Reunion Site Selection Vote. During the breakfast meeting at the Nashville reunion, the location of the 2013 reunion was discussed. Several sites were suggested by members and four surfaced for our consideration. In alphabetical order, they were: Laughlin, NV; Ogden, UT; Oklahoma City, OK; and St Louis, MO. Members are asked to vote their preference by the end of **January 2012**. Also, indicate the month of the year you prefer for our gathering. We will track the votes and the results will be published in the June 2012 newsletter. All votes should be sent to **Jerry May** via email at majw60@gmail.com

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63. We are still in need of new photos for our website. If possible, E-mail the photos - please provide a caption, with date taken, if known, so we can properly label the picture. **Note my new email address is: majw60@gmail.com**

FROM THE HISTORIAN: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. jtonnell@mindspring.com
A limited number of the books are still available for sale (*just over 800 have already been distributed.*) The book contains the history of each of the four sites and includes 110 photos as well as interesting anecdotes from some 75



different Iceland radar vets (*small sample at left.*) It explains what we did, why we did it, and how it was done. It would make a good Christmas or birthday gift for your kids or grandchildren. They can be purchased for

\$10 including postage (our cost.) Order by writing a check payable to "Iceland Radar Sites Reunion" and mail to:

William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN. Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 1960-61. If you have any old orders with names or if you recall a name please pass it on to me at: 2300 E. Silverado Ranch Blvd #1047, Las Vegas, NV, 89183. email BlckJerr@aol.com

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

WANTED: Interesting Anecdotes About Life at the Radar Sites. We are in the process of expanding the Library portion of our Website. For as many folks as we have in our data bank, we should have a lot of anecdotes from members recalling their days at the sites. We number over 2,000 – surely there are a lot of interesting stories out there. Please share them with the rest of us and mail them to Reed Thomas at: 9001 Sweetbrook Lane #104, Raleigh, NC 27615, or email your story to: reed934@yahoo.com

SUBJECT: PODUNK CONTROL

The below account was received from Howard Sewell who was at H-3, in 1964. It demonstrates the complexity of intercepting Soviet aircraft as they tried to pass through our radar defenses.

“...There were three weapons controllers assigned to H-3. George Bowers was the Operations officer. Charlie Wilson and I were the other two assigned controllers. I believe in theory this gave us three people to cover the three shifts. Our call sign was Podunk Control. We operated out of what Charlie and I referred to as the world’s darkest dark room. My recollection is of two surveillance scopes and two control scopes located on a mid-level dais. The top level provided space for a battle commander position along with a technician to manage activities. Down front we had a vertical plotting board but I don’t recall it ever being in use. Normally we provided forward tell of significant aircraft activity to Ink spot control at H-1 from one of the surveillance positions. When needed, we provided control to fighters from the control scopes. I don’t recall the nomenclature of the scopes, but they were about 15 inches in diameter and had a cursor to measure range and bearing.”

“Things got real busy for our simple operation one summer morning in July 64. NATO was running a naval exercise in the north Atlantic called Teamwork. Several capital ships from the U.S. and allied nations were transiting the Faroe straits between the United Kingdom and Iceland.



Soviet Long Range Aviation was quite interested in the operation and flooded the exercise area with intelligence gathering aircraft such as the Bear Delta and the then new Bison. Several Badger series aircraft were also in the area.”

“The Iceland Defense Force was responsible for detecting and identifying all aircraft entering the Icelandic Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). Soviet aircraft were penetrating the ADIZ with regularity. Charlie called me very early this particular morning and asked me to come up to operations. George was on leave so Charlie and I were it as far as available weapons controllers were concerned. When I arrived Charlie had a flight of two F-102’s on combat air patrol (CAP) just east of H-1. Two more were coming

airborne for my control out of Keflavik enroute for CAP. Over the ensuing ten to twelve hours, the 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron launched what I remember to be on the order of twenty to twenty-five missions. This was a significant effort. As I recall they had a very small squadron of either twelve or sixteen deuces. So they had to launch and turn lots of fighters armed with 2.75 folding fin aerial rockets (FFAR’S) that day. It was a long haul for a single engine, subsonic fighter to get out east of Iceland. Keflavik was bearing 291 at 201 nautical miles from our radar site at H-3. From there they had to go another fifty to 125 miles out east of H-1 to engage the Soviet Reconnaissance aircraft. Our small force of radar operators was also maxed out. Practically every operator that we had worked around the clock during the exercise. Major J.C. Youngblood was the site commander. He manned the battle staff position continuously.”

“My first intercept that day was on a Bear Delta as I recall. Charlie and I were both recently promoted First Lieutenants with maybe one hundred intercepts total experience between us, all of which were of the training variety. Needless to say I was somewhat excited and I suspect Charlie was also. It seems that the exercise went on within our limited radar coverage for more than one, perhaps as many as three days. During that period we recorded many intercepts versus our Cold War adversary. At the end of the exercise period I had over one hundred intercepts versus Soviet aircraft. I suspect Charlie had a similar or higher total. We finished the exercise with a great deal of satisfaction that we had performed our Cold War mission effectively.”

Submitted by Howard Sewell, Colonel, USAF, Retired
H-3, 1964 and H-1, 1974

**ICELAND REUNION
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