

US RADAR SITES ICELAND NEWSLETTER, June 2006

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. littlechick@msn.com

The principal news this issue will focus on the results of the general business meeting that took place in Nashville, TN, 18-20 May 2006. Forty three vets (plus an equal number of spouses or guests) attended the Nashville event. A number of issues were



discussed and voted on that will provide firm guidelines for the conduct of our business in the foreseeable future. The timing of this meeting dovetailed perfectly with a large increase in members. We now stand at over 1,900. We can thank our Membership Chairman, Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 60-61.

Here is what was decided at the meeting – if you have any comments, let me know.

1. Branson, MO, 26-29 April, 2007. This will be the site of our next reunion. The headquarters hotel will be the Radisson. We asked for **150** of the hotels' 500 rooms – that insured that we would get a low rate, a large hospitality suite, and other benefits. Therefore, if you intend to stay in a motel while in Branson, we encourage you to use the Radisson so that we can meet our occupancy goal.

Rates. Including taxes **\$78.12 per room** (double or king) – a very competitive rate.

Leisure and Presidential Suites costs \$177.25 and \$199.54, respectively.

Banquet. Scheduled for Saturday evening, April 28. Cost: about **\$35** per person.

Registration Fees will be **\$15** per person, this can be paid now, send to David Hawk.

These fees will be used to stock the hospitality room, for name tags, banquet decorations, etc. If individual radar sites wish to schedule site-only meetings (*like done in Dayton and Colorado Springs*), we can also arrange that. More details in the December newsletter. The hotel is located at 120 South Wildwood Dr, Branson, Mo 65616.

How to contact the Radisson Hotel:

Call: **1-888-566-5290** and ask for group reservations. Tell them you are with the US Radar Sites Iceland. (1-888-566-5290 can only be used for reservations. It can't be used by the folks back home to ring your room – use 1-417-335-5767 for that.)

2. Financial Matters.

Dues. We will continue to ask for volunteer donations. The amount is set at **\$15** a year – due in **June** of each year. (*If anyone wants to be a "life member" they can do so by sending \$150.*) The dues will pay for the printing and mailing of the newsletters, the \$300 per year cost of maintaining our WEB Site, and expenses incurred for reunion site selection. A limit was set to reimburse up to \$250 per person -- for up to two people -- to travel to future reunion sites and negotiate for competitive rates.

Phone Costs: Volunteers will bear their own phone costs for our membership drives.

3. Newsletter. We will continue as before-- twice a year, June and December, as long as funds are available. Since our membership has increased, this cost will rise. We will use snail-mail – if you express a desire to receive by e-mail, we will accommodate.

4. Web Site Control. Reed Thomas H-4, 1958-59, will remain Webmaster with William Chick serving as monitor of all activities. Neither will receive reimbursement.

5. Future reunions.

Frequency: We agree to stay the course of a reunion every other year. We will attempt to schedule future reunions so that they will be divided so that one will be west of the Mississippi River and the next will be east of the River.

Memorials: We plan to continue to make a Radar plaque/presentation at each of our reunion sites – the one for Branson has already been made and sent to the Radisson for display in their Hall of Fame gallery.

6. History books and coins.

History: The cost will remain at \$10 including postage (our cost). We are on our 5th printing and will reorder as needed.

Coins: The cost will remain at \$10. If we sell out, we will reorder as needed.

7. Memorabilia: For the reunion in Branson, Mike Mangone, H-1, H-4, 60-61, will take charge and report on Hats, T-shirts, etc.

8. Membership.

Executive Committee Makeup. Committee officers will include: The Chairman, Administrator, Treasurer, & Membership Chairman, and others as needed. In addition, the remainder of the committee will be represented by 2 members from each site.

Voting rights for general membership: The general membership will be represented by the executive committee. A policy of majority rule will prevail.



FROM THE TREASURER: David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Thanks again for offering to pay a volunteer dues of **\$15** -- due in **June** of each year. Many of you have been supportive of the efforts to keep the Iceland Reunion alive. Again, our monies go to pay for the twice a year newsletter, site selection expenses, and other mail expenses. Please make your check out to Iceland Reunion and mail it to:

David Hawk, Rt 1, Box 233, Elmore City, OK 73433.

FROM THE HISTORIAN: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. jtonnell@mindspring.com

A limited number of the books are still available for sale (nearly 500 have already been distributed.) The book contains the history of each of the four sites and includes 110 pictures as well as quotations from some 75 radar vets. It explains what we did, why we did it, and how it was done. They can be purchased for **\$10** including postage (our cost.) Order by writing a check payable to "Iceland Reunion" and mail to:

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



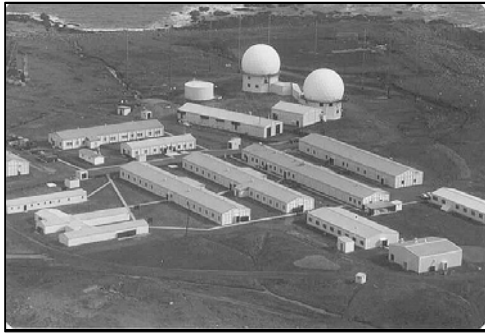
FROM THE WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMEN: Bob Haines, H-4, 1957-58, and Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63. We ask that you please pass photos on to us – bear in mind that we are trying to avoid duplicate photos so that we can save space on the web site. Please do not reduce resolution – send photos full size.

Where to send photos by mail or e-mail:

Send Photos for H-1 & H-3 to: Jerry May, P.O. 1481, Jonesboro, AR 72403 jwmay@bscn.com Send Photos for H-2 and H-4 to: Bob Haines, 12001 Tallgrass Dr, #200, Olathe, KS 66061 RAMAC1440@aol.com

FROM the SCRAPBOOK CHAIRMAN: W.C. Chilton, H-1, 1961- 62. Our many photo scrapbooks will be in Branson in 2007. wcandnelma@blomand.net

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN: Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 60-61, H-3 1961. We have found over 600 people since our reunion in Colorado Springs. Thanks to all who have forwarded old orders -- keep them coming. BlckJerr@aol.com

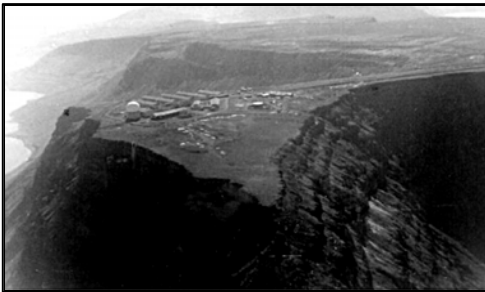


FROM THE MEMORABILIA

FOLKS: Michael Mangone, H-1 and H-4, 1960-61 has some shoulder patches of each site. He will also work on designing hats and T- shirts -- they will be listed on the web site and in the Dec 2006 newsletter. Mike's address is:

11019 N W 5th Ave., Branford, FL 32008

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR AND WEBMASTER. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Reed01@optonline.net



As of 01Jun 2006 we have 3811 names in our data base-- active members = 1914 with addresses and or e-mail addys. We have 1693 names in our search file. Also 215 are deceased members. Totals by site: SAW 6, ACS 22, H-1 1892, H-2 223, H-3 1263, H-4 387, and Misc 24. Our site averages about 80,190 hits a

month. When viewing your record, if it doesn't show what rank or job title please click on Site Map and then select email webmaster and give us the information. This also applies to updating any old information. We are working on getting as much information

on each site's roster as possible. If you have any suggestions don't hesitate to tell us. Our site address is www.usradarsitesiceland.org

Iceland Reunion

Chairman William Chick
104 Summit Point Court
Chapin, SC 29036

Our Web Site Address:

www.usradarsitesiceland.org

Branson, Missouri

Our next reunion will be April 26-29, 2007. The Hotel rates will be the same 3 days before and 3 days after, so plan a real vacation. Call Radisson Hotel 1-888-566-5290 Key word

US Radar Sites Iceland

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER,

Dec 2006, Edited by Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. littlechick@msn.com

I was in Iceland on July 12, 2006 when history was being made as the 932nd ACS transmitted its last message. It was an exciting day for me -- check the whole story elsewhere in this newsletter. Another happy moment was on October 9, 2006, in Short Pump, VA, when I met with Mr. Francis Gary Powers Jr, founder of the soon-to-open Cold War Museum. I officially passed on to him memorabilia from the 932nd for display in the Museum. Mr. Powers recognized the important part Iceland played in the Cold War – (*his father was the U-2 pilot that was shot down over the Soviet Union during the height of that conflict.*) In fact, Mr. Powers has agreed to attend our Branson Reunion in 2007. He will be with us Friday night and all day Saturday, showing films he has about the U-2 plane and review his plans for the museum. He will also serve as our guest speaker at the banquet. His website is: <http://www.coldwar.org>

Let's keep the memories going and plan now to attend the next Iceland Radar Reunion, April 26-29, 2007 in Branson, MO.

Branson, MO Iceland Radar Reunion: April 26 – 29, 2007



LOCATION: Radisson Hotel, Branson

120 S. Wildwood Dr.

Branson, MO 65616

Ctc: **888-566-5290** or 417-335-5767

Code to use to get low rates: USRadarSites Iceland

RATES: Rates per room per day including tax:

Double or King \$78.12

Leisure Suites \$177.25

Presidential Suites \$199.54

Rates apply 3Days before & 3Days after availability

ACTIVITIES: Too numerous to mention – to get brochures on what shows and other activities are going on, call the Branson Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-214-3661.

AIRLINES SERVING BRANSON VIA SPRINGFIELD, MO: AA,DL,NW, and UA

SHUTTLE SERVICES to Branson, MO

Branson Shuttle 800-542-6768; Jerry's Shuttle 417-334-5678; Tri-Lakes Shuttle 471-339-4888; Classic Shuttle 417-598-0227 for Veterans by Veterans

CAR RENTAL: Enterprise Car (*Iceland Grp members use Radisson Spcl Event code #51E4344.*) Other Car rentals Alamo/Avis/Hertz/Budget/National

COSTS/ REGISTRATION: Send funds (Checks) made out to Iceland Reunion **before 1 April** to: **David Hawk at Rt 1, Box 233, Elmore City, OK 73433.**

Registration Fee. \$15 per member, plus \$15 for each spouse or guest.

Saturday night Banquet. \$35 per person (at the Radisson.)

Freebies: Name tag and a Mug or a Pen (to be determined.)

SUMMARY OF EVENTS:

April 26, Thurs. Registration and Hospitality Room (drinks & snacks) open at 5 PM

April 27, Friday. Registration and Hospitality Room open at 8 AM

April 28, Saturday. Registration and Hospitality Room open at 8 AM. Francis Gary Powers, Jr in Hospitality Room all day. H-1, 2, 3, & 4 site Meetings (time to be announced.) Banquet at 6:00 PM. Guest speaker: Francis Gary Powers, Jr.

April 29, Sunday. Departure day. Hospitality room closes at 10 AM.

THE US REMOVES ALL TROOPS FROM ICELAND

By Jerry Tonnell,

In March of 2006, a Pentagon spokesman released the following communiqué:

"After careful consideration of the global strategic environment, including the new threats and demands on resources, the continued permanent presence of U.S. fighter aircraft at Keflavik is no longer an appropriate use of those assets, nor is it in the best interest of the alliance..."

Beginning in 1951, many attempts were made by certain elements within the Icelandic population to force the US to remove her troops from Iceland. But each time, calmer heads prevailed and the troops stayed. This was simply because the basic reason for their deployment remained intact – the security of both Iceland and the US. The Soviet Union (and later, Russia) made those decisions easy ones because they continually sent their bombers over the skies of Iceland for many years – even until April 2003.

In the end, it was a unilateral decision by the US to leave the island. The Icelandic government regretted this decision and offered certain economic incentives to keep the forces there. Nonetheless, the die was cast and our troops began leaving Iceland. Notable was the closing of the 932nd Air Control Squadron – the last remaining unit of its kind in the Atlantic Theater. The US radar presence in Iceland was to be no more.

A number of old radar vets traveled to Iceland to witness those final days. Several visited Keflavik and some went on and walked to the top of the old H-4 location on Mt Straumnes. They were also witnesses to the last message dispatched by the 932nd. At 1534Z on 12 July 2006, MSgt John Hazard sent these parting words from Loki Control: *"All Stations...This is the final transmission after 54 years of Air Defense and Air Sovereignty Operations....This station has been the eyes and ears of the North Atlantic during wartime crisis, and peacetime ops. Thank you to all of our Allies and our Foes for keeping things safe and interesting. LOKI OUT!!!* The facility was out of business just nine short years after the 932nd moved from Rockville to Keflavik NAF.



Photo: Old and current radar vets toasting the final day of the 932nd – 12 July 2006.

The last commander of the 932nd – Lt Col Joseph A. Richardson (above right) – made some closing remarks when he wrote, *"I discovered the rich tradition of the Iceland radar sites and the air defense mission in Iceland...in our unit inactivation ceremony, we tried our best to capture the history of the radar sites...One thing is certain; being a part of the air defense mission in Iceland has been a unique experience for all of us that have had the opportunity...When the decision was made to pull the US military out of Iceland ...we realized that we would be the last of the warriors serving our great nation in the defense of Iceland and in protecting the North Atlantic... We felt very proud as we closed the door...on behalf of all...and cased the 932nd ACS guidon for the last time...there was a sense of pride in a job well done."*

FROM THE TREASURER: David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Thank you to the old members for continuing to support the organization with your voluntary dues and welcome and thank you to the many new members that have joined since the Colorado Springs reunion. For those planning to attend the Branson reunion, please try to have your registration (\$15 for members, \$15 for guests) and banquet fees (\$35 each) to me by the 1st of April. Shortly after the first, I will be going to Arkansas for our annual bluegrass festival and will not be here to collect mail. If you miss that target date or decide at the last minute to attend the reunion you can pay once we all get to Branson. Please note on your checks (or enclose a note) explaining exactly what the money is for. My address is: **David Hawk, Rt 1 Box 233, Elmore City OK 73433.**
Telephone is 405-238-0151

The Scrapbook Chairman: W.C. Chilton, H-1, 1961-62. wcanndnelma@blomand.net
Please send me photos or bring them to Branson.

From the Membership Chairman: Jerry Blackwell H-2, 1960-61, H-3 1961-61. We now have over 2,000 members. If you have some old orders or recall a name please pass it on blckjerr@aol.com.

Website Photo Chairmen: Bob Haines, RAMAC1440@aol.com H-4, 1957-58 and Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63, jwmay@bscn.com. Please check out the photos already on the web site and if you have a new one to add, please pass it on to us.

FROM THE HISTORIAN: Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. jtonnell@mindspring.com
Our 64-page History book contains the history of all four sites and includes 110 pictures as well as quotations from some 75 radar vets. It explains what we did, why we did it, and how it was done. A limited number of the books are still available for sale (over 500 have already been distributed.) They can be purchased for **\$10** including postage (our cost.) Order by writing a check payable to "Iceland Reunion" and mail to: **William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036**

From the Memorabilia Chairman: Michael Mangone, H-1 and H-4, 1960-61. We are working on a couple items for Branson. We still have some coins for sale. They cost \$10. The plan is to list items on our web site in the future so check it out.

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR AND WEBMASTER. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Reed01@optonline.net. In July, 12 of us traveled to Iceland & took the opportunity to hike the 6-mile trip to the top of Mt Straumnes and visit the remnants of H-4. It was an awesome experience. For a full account of the trip to this most remote of the four radar sites, go to our Website, hit Library and then, H-4 Documents.

We have nearly 3,900 names in our data base. Our site averages about 80,000 hits a month. When viewing your record, if it doesn't show your rank or job title, please click on Site Map and then select email webmaster and send us the information. This also

applies to updating any old info. We are working on getting more information on each site's roster as soon as possible. If you have any suggestions don't hesitate to tell us:
www.usradarsitesiceland.org



Reed Thomas and the others hiking up H-4's Mt Straumnes – July 2006. Photo courtesy of D. Gillespie