

US RADAR SITES ICELAND NEWSLETTER, June 2008

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. **William Chick**, H-2, 1959-60. Hello to you all. I am truly



excited about our 2009 reunion in San Antonio. I feel we have made the right choice and the program your committee members made will keep you busy and provide you with plenty of time to socialize and rejoin with friends. The hotel is ideal for visits to the famous River Walk with trolley and water-taxi service right out the front door. We were concerned with cost and came up with an \$80 registration fee for each person that will include the hospitality

room for 3 days, breakfast business meeting, and the dude ranch gathering that will include food, entertainment, and transportation. We have a guarantee for just 100 rooms. Please call as early as possible and reserve your room -- San Antonio is a vacation town. See you soon! littlechick@msn.com

2009 REUNION DETAILS

WHEN: 27, 28, 29, and 30 April, 2009 (Monday through Thursday)

WHERE: San Antonio, Texas. Our headquarters hotel is located at the head of the famous River Walk -- only a 15-minute walk to the heart of town -- or a five-minute, \$1 trolley car ride -- or a ten-minute, \$4 boat ride. There are numerous shops, restaurants, and sights to see -- there will be plenty to keep you busy.

HOTEL: El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel. The multimillion-dollar renovation of the 300-room El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel by Holiday Inn leaves the guests with a sense of *déjà vu* mixed with the realization that they have never seen anything like it before.



From the poolside dive-in movies, to a 3,000 sq. ft. fitness club & much, much more! The El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel is nestled on the banks of the San Antonio River Walk and is close to the Alamo, La Villita, Market Square, incredible shopping and minutes from the parks and area golf courses.

HOTEL COSTS: \$100 per night plus tax.

Parking in hotel secure lot is \$13.00 per day.

REGISTRATION FEES: \$80 per person.

This includes Hospitality Room, Tuesday

morning business meeting breakfast, and a Wednesday evening Cattle Ranch BBQ feast with entertainment --bus transportation is provided.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

-- **Monday, Day of Arrival** -- Social time in the Hospitality Room.

-- **Tuesday. Business breakfast meeting catered by the hotel, commencing 8 AM.**

Social time in the Hospitality Room -- cost included in registration fee.

-- **Wednesday. Dinner at the 7A Working Cattle Ranch.** Pit BBQ dinner with all the fixins. Included are barrels of beer and soft drinks, iced tea, and campfire coffee; a western swing band; performances by a trick roper, a bullwhip artist, six-gun shootouts, and a hayride. Cost, including transportation, is included in the registration fee.

-- **Thursday. Departure Day.** Social time in the Hospitality Room.

HOTEL REGISTRATION: For Hotel Reservations, call this number and be sure to tell them that you are part of the *Iceland Military Reunion*. The number is: 1-866-293-1842.

E-mail reservations can be made at www.reservations@eltropicanohotel

REUNION REGISTRATION: Make your \$80 (per person) check out to *Iceland Reunion* and mail to: **David Hawk**, Rt 1, Box 233, Elmore City, OK 73433

-- Optional Events -- Optional Events --

Tuesday April 28, 11:30 am - 4 pm: The Best of San Antonio Tour. Cost for this tour is \$35 per person. Buses will pick us up at the hotel. First stop is the San Antonio Shoe Factory, which is built like a 1910 General Store full of antiques, a car collection and an old time soda fountain. Next is the Spanish Mission Concepcion. The Mission was started in 1731 and holds great art and a good story of Colonial Spain. Next is a stop at the Alamo Mission Fort with its historic Long Barracks and Chapel. Before leaving downtown, there will be a stop at the Mexican Market. Lunch will be on your own at the River Center Mall or the Menger Hotel.

Tuesday April 28, 5:45 pm - 9:30 pm: River Walk Dinner and Boat Tour. Cost is \$43 per person which includes dinner. River boats will pick us up at the landing near the hotel. The boats glide past restaurants, shops, hotels, and historic sites on the River Walk. After the river tour, the boat docks at the best Mexican restaurant in the city. Dinner follows cocktails at the cash bar and is served where you can overlook the boats and people traveling up and down the river.

Thursday April 30, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm. The Gruene Texas Adventure. Cost for this tour is \$30 per person. Buses will pick us up at the hotel for a trip to historic Gruene Texas on the Guadalupe River. The entire town of Gruene has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places as a restored turn of the 19th century town. There are many specialty shops, antiques, and wine tasting shops. The town has several old general stores, a pottery works and a Christmas store. There are 6 excellent restaurants for lunch (on your own).

NOTE: Those wishing to take any of the optional tours need to add the tour costs to their registration fee. We have to advise the tour company prior to the reunion so that they can schedule transportation. Payment for the tours will be one check from the treasurer. City buses travel to Lackland AFB for those who wish to tour the base.

Historian. **Jerry Tonnell**, H-2, 1959. gtonnell@knology.net The 2008 printing of our 64-page History is available. About 50 books are still available for sale (630 have already been distributed.) They can be purchased for \$10 including postage (our cost.) Write checks payable to "*Iceland Reunion*" and mail to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036



Memorabilia Chairman. **Mike Mangone**, H-1 & H-4 1960-61. Our Website USRSI Store has history books, golf shirts, tee shirts, coins, pens, and hats. If you cannot find it, give me a call at (386)-935-2322, camco9x19@netzero.net or call William Chick: (803)-932-9596.



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, 9123. email BlickJerr@aol.com



Scrapbook Chairman. **WC Chilton**, H-1, 61-62. We still want pictures of all the sites in Iceland. If you have pictures of the country, you can send them to me--al. WC Chilton 210 Parish Ln, McMinnville, TN, 37110-5336 Phone 931-668-8473, e-mail wcanndnelma@blomand.net



Web Photo Chairmen. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63, and Bob Haines, H-4, 1957-58, jwmay@bscn.com and RAMAC1440@aol.com. Check the website for the new photos being posted every day.



Treasurer. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Bank Account balance is \$9,019.00 and we have no outstanding bills. Special thanks to all the new members who have paid voluntary dues of \$15 per year. Please make your \$15 check out to "Iceland Reunion" and mail it to: David Hawk, Rt 1 Box 233, Elmore City OK 73433, phone 4052380151.



Administrator & Webmaster: Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Reed01@optonline.net. If you have any photos or you have an interesting, factual story, please let us know so we can post it to our website: <http://usradarsitesiceland.org>.

Just Where Did Those Radar Site Names Come From?

By Jerry Tonnell

*I'm sure that the thought has crossed most of our minds as to just where the names came from that were used to identify the four Iceland radar sites. **Rockville AFS**. H-1, the first permanent site to be built, was called Rockville AFS. Located on the SW corner of Iceland, it was the home of the 932nd AC&W Sq. The name is not very flattering, but it sure is realistic. Anyone looking out any window while at H-1 saw nothing but miles and miles of rocks. In fact, many vets had their very own rock collection. So, as you can see, H-1 was named for its topography. It remained in operation from 1953 to 1997. **Langanes***



***AFS**. Located on the NE corner of the island, H-2 was named after the land on which it was situated --Langanes Peninsula. The peninsula is shaped like a mallard's head and juts out in the direction of the Norwegian Sea. Perched on top of a mountain named Heidarfall, H-2 was the home of the 667th AC&W Sq. Langanes was in existence from 1956-1961. **Hofn AFS**. H-3 was named after the beautiful fishing village of Hofn. The site was located near the town on the far side of a body of water called Skardsfj, on a thin peninsula named Stokksnes. H-3 was home to two radar sites: the 933rd AC&W Sq from 1955-1960 and, later, the 667th from 1961 to 1988 (the 667th relocated from H-2 in 1961 after high winds destroyed the bubble at H-2.) **Latrar AFS**. H-4 was named after an abandoned fishing village located on Adalvik Bay in extreme NW Iceland. The site was so remote that it required both a regular site and a base camp. The regular site was on top of Straumnes Mountain, while the base camp was at Latrar. In fact, H-4 went by two names -- Straumnes AFS (from 1956-57) and Latrar AFS from 1957 until 1960 when it was deactivated. **The 932nd ACS at Keflavik Naval Air Station**. In 1997, the 932nd relocated from Rockville to Keflavik NAS. Construction on four new low-maintenance sites began in 1989 to replace the old sites -- these new units were maintained by the Iceland Radar Agency and their data was fed directly to the 932nd at Keflavik. All four new sites were located on or fairly near the old radar locations. The 932nd remained on the air until July 2006. **In conclusion**. Now you know where all those names came from and you can wax eloquent at our next reunion in San Antonio in April 2009.*

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

FROM THE CHAIRMAN, William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. I am looking forward to seeing you all in San Antonio. I think everyone will like and enjoy the El Tropicano and the Riverwalk Holiday Inn Hotel. It is located on the east end of the River Walk, just a 15-minute walk from downtown. If you don't want to walk, a \$1 trolley ride comes to the hotel a couple times each hour. There is also a \$4 river-barge ride available. There will be much to keep you busy with plenty of time to reminisce with old friends. The hotel cost about \$100 a night. We have 100 rooms set aside now, but reservations may be limited 90 days before the Reunion. San Antonio is a vacation wonderland so make your plans now. See you soon!



littlechick@msn.com

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

-- **Monday, Day of Arrival** – Registration and the Hospitality Room opens at 8 AM.

-- **Tuesday. Business breakfast meeting catered by the hotel, commencing 8 AM.**

We will have a briefing about Lackland AFB. This will be followed by our guest speaker, Col Clark Wigley, Comdr of H-1, 1992-93 (*Col Wigley also served at H-3 in 1976-77.*) Social time in the Hospitality Room -- cost included in registration fee.

-- **Wednesday. Dinner at the 7A Working Cattle Ranch.** Pit BBQ dinner with all the fixins. Included are barrels of beer and soft drinks, iced tea, and campfire coffee; a western swing band; performances by a trick roper, a bullwhip artist, six-gun shootouts; and a hayride. Cost, including transportation, is included in the registration fee.

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-- Optional Events -- Optional Events --

Tuesday April 28, 11:30 am - 4 pm: The Best of San Antonio Tour. Cost for this tour is \$35 per person. Buses will pick us up at the hotel. First stop is the San Antonio Shoe Factory, which is built like a 1910 General Store full of antiques, a car collection and an old-time soda fountain. Next is the Spanish Mission Concepcion. The Mission was started in 1731 and holds great art and a good story of Colonial Spain. Next is a stop at the Alamo Mission Fort with its historic Long Barracks and Chapel. Before leaving downtown, there will be a stop at the Mexican Market. Lunch will be on your own at the River Center Mall or the Menger Hotel.



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Commemorative Coin. Commemorative coins for our 2009 San Antonio Reunion are now available. The coins are done in the color gold w/red, white and blue trim. They will be available at the Reunion for \$5. If you want one in advance, contact Reed Thomas at Reed01@optonline.net. (To be mailed, the cost will be \$7 which includes postage.)



Memorabilia Chairman. Mike Mangone, H-1 & H-4 1960-61. Our Website USRSI Store has history books, golf shirts, tee shirts, coins, pens, and hats. If you cannot find it, give me a call at (386)-935-2322, camco9x19@netzero.net, or call William Chick: (803)-932-9596.



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Web Photo Chairmen. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63, majvw60@suddenlink.net and Bob Haines, H-4, 1957-58, and RAMAC1440@aol.com. Check the website for the new photos being posted every day.



Treasurer. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Thanks again for offering to pay voluntary dues of \$15 per year– due each June. Again, our monies are for the twice-yearly newsletter, site selection & mailing costs. Make your \$15 check out to Iceland Reunion and mail it to: David Hawk, Rt 1 Box 233, Elmore City OK 73433.



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Scrapbook Chairman. WC Chilton (far left), H-1, 61-62, is retiring as Scrapbook Chairman. We thank him for his years of service. Bill Torpey (near left), H-1, 1957-58, has graciously agreed to take over this important task. In the future send interesting pictures of the sites or of Iceland to

Bill Torpey, 6408 King George Dr, Austin, TX 78745.
Phone 512-445-5093, E-mail: jan@torpey.org



Iceland Radar Website. John Tienen, H-1, 1962-63, writes, "*Are you looking for a long-lost Iceland buddy? Would you like to take a stroll down memory lane and re-visit your days in Iceland? All these things are possible by visiting our website (www.usradarsitesiceland.org). There you can search the user-friendly directory and roster to look up your old buddies. A number of different search options are available. Photos of our different reunions are available as are photos taken throughout the years of the four different sites. If you have an old and recent photo of yourself, submit them to the 'Then and Now' section found under 'Photos.'* A lot of effort went into this excellent website. Use it, enjoy it, and contribute whatever you can to it to make it even better."