

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER, June 2009

NEWSLETTER #16 EDITOR, JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. The San Antonio Reunion held April 26-30, 2009, was one of our best and I thank all who came to make it a success. The area had lots to offer and many took advantage of it all. Of course, we all remembered the Alamo. The hotel staff was great, the Tex-Mex food was super, and the Riverwalk was a sight to see. The normal reunion banquet was replaced with a BBQ dinner with live music, rope tricks, and a hay ride at a working ranch just outside the city. Ed Vitatoe's wife, Claudine, was our only casualty -- she fell and broke her foot -- she is recuperating nicely. We turn now to our 2011 reunion. Our reunion site selection chairman, John Tianen, came up with some good places such as Memphis, Nashville, and Orlando. Please make your wishes known by voting (see instructions on how to vote on the facing page.) During our business meeting we elected a slate of officers for our association. Since there was no opposition, I guess you are stuck with us for the near future (see complete list on the next page). As Chairman, I welcome the challenge -- but, as in the past, I will request your assistance when I need help. We



also need your monetary support in the form of our voluntary dues of \$15 per year. That way we can continue with our newsletters, website, and our reunion site searches. Thanks for all you do.

Administrator and

Website Director. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. Attendance figures for the Reunion were: 932nd ACS, 2 members; H-1, 35, members & 32 guests; H-2, 12 members & 11 guests; H-3, 19 members & 17 guests; H-4, 6 members & 4 guests; WWII SAW, 2 members & 2 guests; HQ ADC, 1 member & 1 guest; and AFI, 2 members & 1 guest. Total: 79 members & 68 guests. Grand Total was **147** attendees.

Web site year-to-date: 4,376 Unique visitors; Number of visits, 13,937; Pages viewed, 59,808; and, Hits, 142,313. Our Bandwidth is: 2.90 GB. I am in process of updating the site with suggestions received from members at the reunion. Thank you for your cooperation. Please continue to support our data base.

Our Site address needs no sign-on or password: www.usradarsitesiceland.org

Treasurer. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. I thank everyone for supporting and attending the San Antonio reunion. I apologize to those who paid registration and then had to cancel at the last minute. I had to give the hotel and the tour agency firm numbers by the 20th of April so \$73 of the \$80 registration fee were committed and spent even before we arrived in San Antonio.

From 15 May 2008 until the time of the reunion, I have received a total of \$1,680 in voluntary dues (at \$15 per person per year.) We have published two newsletters and paid for a year's maintenance on the website for a total of \$2,600. Our check book balance as of today is \$7,990 which makes us a well funded association, but we can't operate forever with a \$1,000 per year deficit. One thing would save us a lot of expense would be for those of us who have computers and ISPs to receive the

newsletters electronically. We will still provide snail mail copies to those who desire. Take a moment and send a note to either me at dhawk1@hughes.net or Reed Thomas at reed01@optonline.net. Let us know your thoughts. Please note my new mailing address. We didn't move, but we now have rural 911 service hence the new address: David Hawk, 26525 East CR 1610, Elmore City OK 73433. My phone # is still 405 - 238 - 0151.

Site Selection Chairman. John Tianen, H-1, 1962-63. During the breakfast meeting at the San Antonio reunion, the location of the 2011 reunion was discussed. Several locations suggested by members were put to a show of hands by the entire group in order to obtain a list of candidate locations. Of the seven locations given, the three that received the greatest show of hands were Nashville, TN, Memphis, TN, and Orlando, FL. Members are asked to vote on their preference by August 2009. Write-in votes for other locations will also be accepted. Votes should be sent to Jerry May (see below.) Jerry will track the vote and the results will be published in the Dec 2009 newsletter.

VOTING. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63, our Website Photo Chairman. I will be taking the votes for site selection of our next reunion.

HOW TO VOTE: Send your vote for the location and month of our 2011 reunion. The choices are: Memphis, TN, Nashville, TN, or Orlando, FL. You may vote for a different location, if you wish. E-mail your vote to: mayjw60@suddenlink.net
Snail mail your vote to: Jerry W. May, P. O. Box 148, Jonesboro, AR 72403-1481

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, 2) if your computer can open PDF files, & 3) in what form you want the newsletter (i.e., email or snail mail.) To do this, contact either David Hawk at dhawk1@hughes.net or Reed Thomas at Reed01@optonline.net or William Chick at littlechick@msn.com

Our Slate of Officers Through 2011. A vote of confirmation was taken at San Antonio.

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

Executive Committee: 1952 Trailblazers Squadron: Jack Hamilton, Scrapbook Chairman Emeritus: W C Chilton, Scrapbook Chairman: **Pending**, Membership Chairman: Jerry Blackwell, Web Photo Chairmen: Jerry May and Bob Haines, Memorabilia Chairman: Mike Mangone, Historian and Newsletter Editor: Jerry Tonnell, Site Selection Chairman: John Tianen, Hospitality Chairman: Fred Schulte, Sq Commander Coordinator: Col Doug Harper.

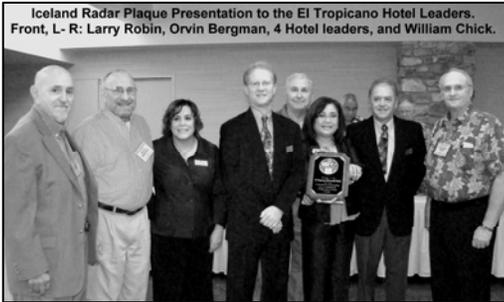
At Large Members: H-1, Andy Holzinger & Pappy Papworth; H-2, Matz Malone & Michael Bonjo; H-3, Joe Pyrdek & Ed Vitatoe; H-4, David Gillespie & Cameron Davis.

Historian. Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. In early May, 2009, we printed another batch of books. Since 2003, over 700 have been distributed -- mostly to our members. But, several 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

WHAT HAPPENED AT SAN ANTONIO?

EDITED BY JERRY TONNELL

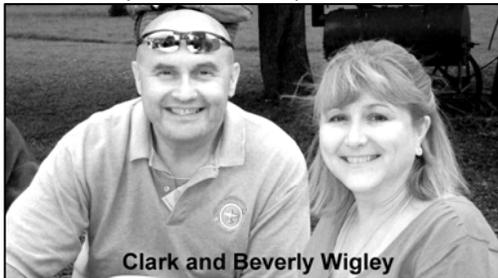
Since I was unable to attend the reunion, I will rely on the comments of several of those who sent me a record of what went on. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60, related that the "leadership of the hotel was completely surprised when we presented them a plaque in appreciation for the 2009 Reunion at their facility. That had never happened



Iceland Radar Plaque Presentation to the El Tropicano Hotel Leaders.
Front, L-R: Larry Robin, Orvin Bergman, 4 Hotel leaders, and William Chick.

to them before and they were profoundly grateful (it showed up in their superb treatment of us.) Our business meeting was a success, largely due to the excellent presentations made by our own Col Clark Wigley, former commander of H-1, and by Lt Col Jeffrey Jenkins of Lackland AFB." Mel Westlund, H-1, 1961-62, wrote,

"The sightseeing tours were interesting and informative, linking us to the past history of San Antonio. Hadn't been back since basic training in 1960." Terry Learned, H-1, '62-'63, said that "2009 was my second Iceland reunion and my wife's first. She was thoroughly impressed with the connection and history of the Iceland Vets, whether they were stationed together or not... Many thanks to the committee for choosing that location in San Antonio." Larry E. Robin, H-1, 1964-65, commented that "we did not know what a jewel of a place we had picked. Well it turns out that it was the best of the four. The breakfast Banquet was a great idea. We had two great guest speakers and the emcee wasn't bad. It was a nostalgic trip from basic training to 'do you remember when' at the radar sites and during our early years." Doug Harper, H-3, 1972-73, wrote "Larry Robin introduced Col Clark Wigley, who had been at Hofn and then commander at Rockville. He gave a short talk about remembering things that happened in Iceland from the wind, to sheep, flights, to Bear interceptions etc. Col Wigley then introduced Lt Col Jeffrey Jenkins, the Sq Commander of the Basic AF training at Lackland. He



Clark and Beverly Wigley

gave a very interesting update on the training that is now being conducted. The training period has been extended to allow ... Army type training for airmen that will be in Iraq and Afghanistan working with the Army...They are trained to protect themselves in the hostile environment. Very enlightening

to all of us that were in basic training long ago... On Wednesday we boarded the buses again in the late afternoon for the ride west of San Antonio to the 7A ranch...A performer did tricks with a whip and then many rope tricks for our entainment. After we ate the owner loaded us up on a wagon with bales of hay to sit on and took us around the ranch... In the late evening we all boarded the buses and were glad to be going back to the hotel for the night. Great day."



William A. Chick
Reunion Chairman
104 Summit Point Court
Chapin, SC, 29036
803-422-9486

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US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER

Dec 2009

NEWSLETTER #17 EDITOR, JERRY TONNELL, H-2, 1959.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. The votes are in and we will be headed to Nashville, Tennessee in 2011. Located on the banks of the Cumberland River, Nashville is the capital of Tennessee. It is the second most



populous city in the state and was founded in 1779. Before and during the Civil War it was known as a shipping and trading center. With the beginning of the Grand Ole Opry in 1925, it became "Music City USA." Today the city is a crossroads of American culture and is one of the fastest growing areas in the south. Three major interstate highways converge near downtown: 1-40, I-65 and I-24. Vanderbilt U, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, Belcourt Theatre, and Ryman Auditorium (photo at left) make up just a few of the sites to see in Nashville. While Civil War history is important to its tourism industry, the city is also the home of the NFL's Tennessee Titans. Today the city's economy still runs on music recording and tourism, but it is also home to three of the Fortune 500 companies -- Dell, Hospital Corporation of America, & Dollar General. The population of the city is about 570K and the metropolitan area numbers over 1½ million. Nashville is the American Airlines hub and has a mini-hub for Southwest. Barbeque pork ribs are a must according to folks I know who live there. Looks like a great place for our reunion. We will have the exact dates of the reunion and the name of the hotel in our June 2010 newsletter. Littlechick@msn.com



Southwest. Barbeque pork ribs are a must according to folks I know who live there. Looks like a great place for our reunion. We will have the exact dates of the reunion and the name of the hotel in our June 2010 newsletter. Littlechick@msn.com

ADMINISTRATOR and WEBSITE DIRECTOR. Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. I am still in the process of updating the site with suggestions received from members at the last reunion. Thank you for your cooperation. Please continue to support our data base. Our Site address needs no sign-on or password: www.usradarsitesiceland.org I have a new home address: Reed Thomas, 9001 Sweetbrook Lane #104, Raleigh, NC 27615. My new phone number is: (919)- 846- 4764.

TREASURER. David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Our check book balance at last count was \$8,416 which makes us a well funded association. However, we are currently operating at a \$1,000 per year deficit – our voluntary dues of \$15 per year do not cover our website and semi-annual newsletter costs. One thing that would save us a lot of

expense would be for those of us who have computers and ISPs to receive the newsletters electronically. We will still provide snail mail copies to those who desire. Please note my new mailing address: David Hawk, 500 N. Ash St, Pauls Valley, OK 73075. 405 238 0151 Thanks for any and all donations.

VOTING RESULTS. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63. The results of the vote for the 2011 reunion are as follows: Memphis, TN, 15; Orlando, FL, 47; Nashville, TN, 70, and Other Locations, 6. Total Votes Cast: 138. The winner of the vote was NASHVILLE. Regarding the time of the year for the reunion, the April/May timeframe was the winner. For questions, contact: Jerry W. May at his new address, 310 W Thomas Green Rd #1, Jonesboro, AR 72401 mayjw60@suddenlink.net

SITE SELECTION CHAIRMAN. John Tianen, H-1, 1962-63. With Nashville as the site of our next reunion, we will be working to get a combination of a good hotel at an affordable price in a good location.

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, 2) if your computer can open PDF files, &, 3) in what form you want the newsletter (i.e., e-mail or snail mail.) To do this, contact either David Hawk at dhawk1940@yahoo.com or Reed Thomas at Reed01@optonline.net or William Chick at littlechick@msn.com

HISTORIAN. Jerry Tonnell, H-2, 1959. The [History of the Radar Sites of Iceland](#) heralds the accomplishments of those of us who served in Iceland. It is the story of what you did for your country during those very warm Cold War years while stationed in Iceland. Many of you have already purchased one of these books, but others in your family may be curious as to "what Daddy or Mommy did during the (Cold) War." If you haven't done so already, consider getting one for your kids or grandkids and give it to them as a birthday or Christmas present. Books cost \$10 including postage (our cost.) Write checks to "Iceland Reunion" and mail to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036. littlechick@msn.com

WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMEN. Jerry May, H-1, 1962-63, mayjw60@suddenlink.net and BobHaines, H-4, 1957-58, and RAMAC1440@aol.com. 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 BlckJerr@aol.com

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.

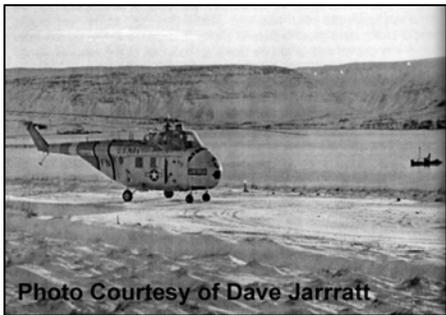
RESCUE at H-1

Most of our past newsletters have focused on those assigned to the radar sites. Now let's turn to a story showing the importance of those who kept us safe and in good



health. This event was recorded by, 1st Lt David Jarratt, USAF, Air Rescue Service in his book, Short Hops: Revisited. Dave was an H-19B helicopter and an L-20 Beaver pilot during his tour in Iceland from June 1960 to March 1962. Below is an excerpt from one of the stories in his book of an emergency rescue in the winter of 1960/61 of an airman assigned to H-1.

"...my first emergency rescue was around 0230 hours one morning when a young Airman at the Radar Site H-1...located about 5 K from Kef, had an attack of appendicitis. The medic on site and the Doc at the hospital decided a trip on the rocky roads of Iceland was not in the best interest of the patient, so Charlie Trapp and I were rousted out of bed...and sent on our way via the SH-19B... It hardly took any time at all to get to the radar site, which was lit up like a Christmas tree...There was what we called an "antenna farm" co-located with the three radomes and each had four cables anchored to cement blocks buried in the hard ground around them. In order to keep our tail rotor out of the cables and to get as close as possible to the main entrance of the building where the Airman was located, we had to hover sideways up the main entrance road. Once that was accomplished, with our right cabin door facing the entrance, the medic and another Airman rushed the patient, who was on a stretcher, to the aircraft and our crewman helped the medic hook him on the left side of the cabin. Since our crew chief wasn't medically qualified at the that time, the Corpsman from the site stayed with us...I had figured every possible weight and balance configuration, but



because the cabin was directly under the center of lift we had nothing to worry about; so, after hovering back through the cables, away we went... Making the approach and landing to the seldom-used cinder pad at the emergency end of the Keflavik Base Hospital was a challenge during the day, never mind during the 18 hours of night we were currently enjoying. Even so, with landing and searchlights

blazing, Charlie did an admirable job. Once the patient was safely in the Emergency Room and the Crew Chief strapped back in at his station in the cabin, the Pilot-in-Command [Trapp] allowed his green co-pilot [Jarratt] to make the takeoff and approach back into the Airport."

NOTE: About 46 of the pages in the book Short Hops: Revisited is dedicated to Jarratt's experiences flying helicopters and L-20s in Iceland. Those interested can find the book for sale online at Amazon.com.



William A. Chick
Reunion Chairman
104 Summit Point Court
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