

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: I-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

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.

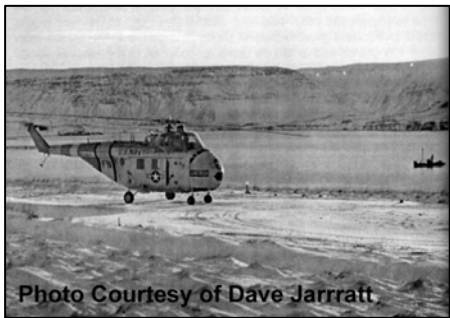
RESCUE at H-1

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 roused 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
Chapin, SC, 29036
803-422-9486

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