

## ICELAND RADAR SITES NEWSLETTER, Dec 2005

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN:** William Chick, H-2, 1959-60. [littlechick@msn.com](mailto:littlechick@msn.com)

Our focus is on the 2007 reunion and news from the Biloxi area is not good. I have been in contact with Keesler AFB, real-estate brokers, and a couple folks who live there and the story is it will take longer than 2 years for the area to recover – including the governmental regulations required to move the casinos to new zoning locations. Our second choice in the voting was Branson, MO. A survey of the executive committee, plus some other inputs, recommended we take a good look at Branson. We will do that in the coming months. We estimate that somewhere around the 3rd week of May 2007 for the next reunion -- comments are welcome. A final notice will be in the June 2006 newsletter. Thanks goes to our membership chairman, Jerry Blackwell, H-2, 1960-61, who has found over 100 new members since the last reunion. Please look around and find any old orders and photos and mail them to us. Here's wishing you all a super holiday.



includes 110 pictures as well as quotations from some 75 radar vets. It explains what we did & how we did it. They can be purchased for \$10 (our cost), including postage. (We also have reunion coins for \$10.) Place an order by writing a check payable to "Iceland Reunion" & mail to: William Chick, 104 Summit Point Court, Chapin, SC 29036

**FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR:** Reed Thomas, H-4, 1958-59. [Reed01@optonline.net](mailto:Reed01@optonline.net)

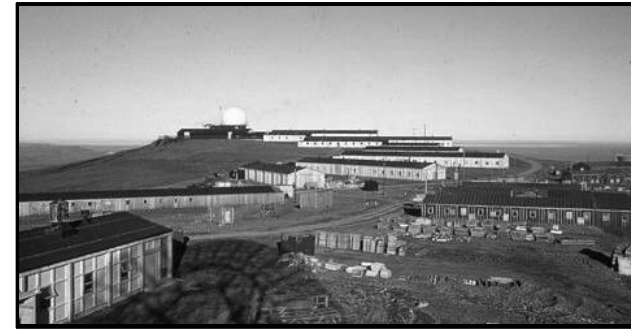
Thank you to all who contributed to our Katrina Relief Fund for airmen assigned to Kessler AFB Biloxi, MS. We collected and distributed, thru the AF Aid Society and Family Support, a total of \$2506.00. USAF officials acknowledged our contributions and they were greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support.



**MEMORABILIA IDEAS:** Joe Pyrdek, H-3, 67-68. [pyrdek@alltel.net](mailto:pyrdek@alltel.net)

If there is a desire for shirts, hats, etc. Let me know and I will start working on this.

**FROM the WEBSITE PHOTO CHAIRMAN:** Bob Haines, H-4, 1957-58. I am working on a "Then and Now Photo" section on the website for each squadron. We need photos taken while members were stationed in Iceland. We need "Now" photos taken



at least within the last couple of years. Photos may be sent by e-mail (Please do not reduce resolution, send full size.) Or send copies (copies only, NO original photos please) of photos by regular mail to Bob Haines

or Jerry May. Photos on CD will work too. Photos for H-1 and H-3 should be sent to: Jerry May, P.O. 1481, Jonesboro, AR 72403 [jwmay@bscn.com](mailto:jwmay@bscn.com). Photos for H-2 and H-4 should be sent to Bob Haines, 12911 Barkley St. Apt. 108, Overland Park, and KS 66209 [ROWBOSF@everestic.net](mailto:ROWBOSF@everestic.net).

**FROM THE TREASURER:** David Hawk, H-1, 1985-86. Thanks again for considering paying a volunteer dues of \$15 -- due in June of each year. Many of you have been supportive of the efforts to keep the Iceland Radar Reunion alive. Again, our dues go to pay for the twice-a-year newsletter, site selection and Website costs, and other mail and phone search expenses.



As many of you know, our association donated money to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to at least one radar vet who very nearly lost everything. It is likely that another disaster will come along in the not too distant future where

thousands become homeless. To meet this need, we have decided to earmark some of our association's funds for that purpose -- however, we want to keep that money separate from our dues collection whose sole purpose is to fund the association itself. Therefore, we welcome additional donations to our "Disaster Relief Fund." You can donate in two ways:

- 1) If you write a check for dues that is more than \$15, indicate that the overage is for disaster relief, or
- 2) If you write a second check -- other than for dues -- ask for it to be earmarked for disaster relief.

**FROM the SCRAPBOOK CHAIRMAN:** W.C. Chilton, H-1, 1961- 62. I still will take pictures from any one of the sites in Iceland. Please label them and send them printed or a CD and I will put them in our scrapbooks. [wcandnelma@blomand.net](mailto:wcandnelma@blomand.net)

## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

I have always been curious about the genesis of nations, wars, sports, and associations. Therefore, I thought it might be of interest to report on just how the US Radar Sites of Iceland veteran's organization got its start.

It all began in 2000 when a radar vet by the name of Lowell (Woody) Woodworth (H-1, 1959-60) took it upon himself to develop a Yahoo sponsored website for the radar sites of Iceland. Based on old military orders, he was able to assemble and contact about 200 people. Early in this process, he made a call to a certain William Chick (H-2, 1959-60.) Chick was very excited about the prospect of helping to gather names and dove headlong into the task. About the same time Reed Thomas (H-4, 1958-59), found Lowell's website on the Internet and called him. Reed then began an intensive search of both folks from H-4 and those from other sites. While all this was going on, they learned that Joe Pyrdek (H-3-1967-68) already had a website which focused exclusively on H-3.

Matters progressed quickly and the data base expanded to several hundred. In the fall of 2001, Lowell suggested that they plan for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion for the spring of 2003 in Dayton, OH. In the meantime, Lowell was tied down with other tasks and was working on another military reunion and asked that Chick take over as chairman of the event. Chick had the time, energy, and dedication to lead the program to what it is today. Chick and Reed replaced Lowell's website with a privately funded site that would not attract the unwanted advertisements and e-mails of the Yahoo site which had resulted in the loss of many members. Reed took on the task of being the new website administrator and got Joe Pyrdek to design the logo. David Hawk (H-1, 1985-86) and Carl Wenberg (H-2, 1958-59) were also part of the initial cadre that helped kick-start the organization. Reed called me and asked if I would volunteer to be the Historian. Chick and Reed then built a well balanced executive committee that would both plan and administer the forthcoming reunion. The committee made a decision early on that both the association and any reunions have at least one altruistic purpose--to honor the memory of the men and women who so faithfully served on the far reaches of America's defensive front.



The rest is history. Two highly successful reunions have been held -- one at Dayton, OH in 2003 and the other in Colorado Springs, CO in 2005. In both cases, Iceland Radar Site memorials have been donated to two different military museums and the Radar Sites of Iceland History book has been

sent to several libraries and the offices of the major air command historical offices of each of the MAJCOMs that oversaw our radar sites through the years. The location of the 2007 reunion will be announced in the near future. There are now nearly 1,300 radar vets in the data base.

**WILLIAM A. CHICK**  
Iceland Reunion Chairman  
104 Summit Pt Ct  
Chapin, SC 29036

**Planning Meeting.** Our membership has grown to 1,300 which necessitates that we schedule a planning meeting for our Association. We will hold a planning meeting May 18-21, 2006 in Nashville, TN. All members are welcomed. The exact details of where and when are still being worked out and more info will follow for those who plan to attend. Contact William A. Chick if interested. There will be plenty of time for some sightseeing -- Nashville is a target rich environment in the entertainment category. Our regular reunion will be in 2007 as planned.