

US RADAR SITES of ICELAND NEWSLETTER, June 2009

NEWSLETTER #116 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 Tienen, 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 Tienen, 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 Tienen, 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

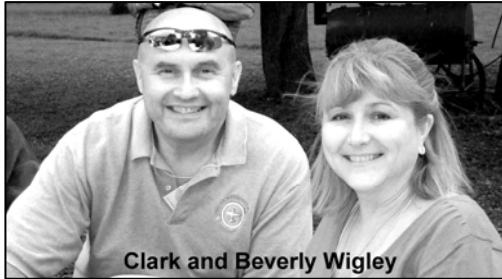
Since I was unable to attend the reunion, I will rely on the comments of several of those who sent me a record of what went on. William Chick, H-2, 1959-60, related that the *"leadership of the hotel was completely surprised when we presented them a plaque in appreciation for the 2009 Reunion at their 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
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US Radar Sites of Iceland

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