



## YAGRGRAM #78 - SUMMER 2017

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view & print this YAGRGRAM in color at <http://www.yagrs.org>

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### 2018 New Orleans Reunion - Lee Doyel

We now have a signed contract with a hotel in New Orleans for the 2018 reunion. It is:

Double Tree New Orleans Airport  
2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd  
Kenner, LA 70062  
phone: 504-467-3111

Dates are:  
Tuesday 18 Sep through Saturday 23 Sep, 2018.

Rate is:  
\$112.00 plus 14.75% room tax and includes

### YAGRS Men's Meeting Minutes - Saturday, May 6, 2017 - Sheraton Waterside Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

submitted by Fay Esters, USS Vigil

YAGRS Chair Lee Doyle opened the 22nd. Annual YAGRS business meeting. One first-time attendee was noted. Fourteen ships were represented, and included 62 men and 52 ladies. At least two widows Marion Hinman and Claudia Jerzewski attended the reunion in honor of their late husbands. Searcher had the largest number followed by Outpost. Lee reminded members that names are removed from the newsletter mailing list after a two-year grace period of non-payment of dues. The newsletter is

breakfast. Good 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion dates.

Hotel web site may mention a parking fee. That has been waived for us. Free parking and airport shuttle.

Tours and registration costs are to be determined and will be in the fall newsletter.

the single biggest budget item at \$1.15 each.

About 20% of all who served on the 16 ships have been located. Guardian's more than 100, the highest. Lee said that he has been able to determine that his ship, Tracer, had about 800 to 900 over the ten years of service. He said that figure would be close for each of the others.

Roland Cote reported on regular maintenance on the USS Massachusetts display. Maps of the east and west coast stations are new in place. The ships

new curator wants to engage professional painters to address flaking paint in the he YAGRS compartment. He said about 1,000 visitors come to the ship weekly. Of that number 500 to 600 are Boy Scouts visiting each weekend. Lee reported that YAGRS will award \$1,000 dollars to this ship this year. The full-time staff has been reduced to 6 people.



**Representing the YAGRS Association, Roland Cote (AGR-10), presents a check to John McDonagh, executive director of Battleship Cove, on May 15, 2017**

Treasurer Armand Lamarche asked that dues come directly to him and that one check is sufficient to cover all events or orders from the store. Rental of electric scooters for future reunions is being researched. Lee said that reunion expenses surpass registration fees, but dues subsidize the overage and that YAGRS is financially stable.

Eight-four individuals are currently on YAGRS Facebook page. Visitors are encouraged to go to the guest log. Guest log information is NOT shared with anyone outside of the organization. Frank Pulaski advised that the site is an ideal resource to search for shipmates. He advised that there is ample room for YAGR ship web sites to be added, thereby individuals can save the cost establishing a site. He asked anyone needing help with this to contact him. In a non-related matter,

Lee said anyone needing back copies of the YAGRGRAM should contact him. He has all of the back issues and he can provide copies.

Books are available from Joe Maurer for \$20 reproduction and mailing costs only. The printer error found in the original book has been corrected. Joe reported that he has mailed out 250 books, one as far away as New Zealand. The

association purchased and sent copies to select military museums, including the Cold War Museum. A return response from the Library of Congress indicated a review would determine its worthiness for inclusion in their collections.

Lee commended the ships coordinators for doing a "Yoeman's job" in getting information to members. Regarding store items, there are a few challenge coins remaining as well as lapel pins, and some ship's hats. Seven ship's patches have been approved by Lee so far and all should be available within a few months. The Commemorative Photo is available for \$30.00. One of the photos has been presented to the hotel in Branson, Missouri, and it is on display.

Hank Ragsdale won the Commemorative photo serving tray silent auction. Joe Noonan was first to register for this year's reunion and received one free night at the hotel. Lee stressed the importance of the registration document in helping to resolve any problems that may arise. Changes made in adding/canceling tours, etc. will require submission of a new form. No date nor hotel has been selected for the New Orleans reunion, probably in late September or the first week of October.

An offer has been made anonymously, to pay attendee's registration, including hospitality room, banquet and tours, if the membership agrees to select Colorado Springs, Colorado as the site for the 25th. reunion in 2020. Hotel room and transportation would be up to individuals. No action taken.

For 2019, the list of possible sites was winnowed to 6: Niagara Falls, Savannah, Myrtle Beach, Great Lakes/Chicago, Jacksonville and a Canada/New England cruise. The first vote was a 17 o 17 tie for Canadian/New England tour and Great Lakes /Chicago. The second vote was 25 to 20 for the cruise. A date will be set later.

Lee was commended from the floor by membership for the job he continues to do as Chairman of the YAGRS association.

The final item was to inform attendees that the banquet would feature Virginia Pilot Association President, Captain. J. William Cofer. Adjourn.

## Norfolk Ladies Breakfast - Pat Reichling

Our Ladies Breakfast was a lot of fun. So many wonderful prizes to choose from!!! It was hard to make a decision!!

As usual the YAGRS women opened their hearts and were generous in their donations. Over \$450 was collected , along with lots of useful items for the VA Hospital at Hampton Roads, Virginia. We were so happy to welcome a representative of that facility to accept our offering. A crew of women packed up and bagged up the donations in a jiffy and after a few words from Isaac, he was on his way.

A vote was taken and a VA facility will again be the recipient of our donations in 2018  
Brenda Jessel ( OUTPOST) gave our Blessing this year and Peggy Canady ( PROTECTOR) and Barb Sleeper ( PROTECTOR) conducted our auction. Claudia Jerzewski ( TRACER) and Lorna Barbour ( TRACER) helped out by collecting the donation money and taking notes for me.

So many of those who attended helped in ways too numerous to mention. Thank you!!!!

Our MS NAVY contest winners this year were 1st place Ruth Jones ( INTERDICTOR), 2nd place Bette Issac ( GUARDIAN), 3rd place Jenny Estes ( OUTPOST).

2018 Contest is a decorated Mardi Gras mask.



**ship's coordinators** - Ship's coordinators maintain an email list that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator. We still need a coordinator for the USS Picket (AGR-7).

AGR-1 Frank St Mark [smarks117@hotmail.com](mailto:smarks117@hotmail.com)  
AGR-2 Ralph Rappuhun [rrappuhn@aol.com](mailto:rrappuhn@aol.com)  
AGR-3 Chuck Parker [chuckparker@gmail.com](mailto:chuckparker@gmail.com)  
AGR-4 Steve Mierzejewsk [stevejackie43@gmail.com](mailto:stevejackie43@gmail.com)  
AGR-5 Bob Werstler [rdwerst@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdwerst@sbcglobal.net)  
AGR-6 Lee Doolittle [tleedoo@u.washington.edu](mailto:tleedoo@u.washington.edu)  
AGR-7  
AGR-8 Ron Stasiak [ronstasiak@rocketmail.com](mailto:ronstasiak@rocketmail.com)

AGR-9 Frank Mahaffey [franknbetz@gmail.com](mailto:franknbetz@gmail.com)  
AGR-10 Paul Langenus [plangenus@cox.net](mailto:plangenus@cox.net)  
AGR-11 George Sleeper [gsleeper@roadrunner.com](mailto:gsleeper@roadrunner.com)  
AGR-12 Jesse Germany [jgermany31@gmail.com](mailto:jgermany31@gmail.com)  
AGR-13 Richard Willhite [willys55nut@comcast.net](mailto:willys55nut@comcast.net)  
AGR-14 Joe Jackson [jacksonj@pldi.net](mailto:jacksonj@pldi.net)  
AGR-15 Lee Doyel [mldoyel@cox.net](mailto:mldoyel@cox.net)  
AGR-16 Frank McNamara [ec2sc1@comcast.net](mailto:ec2sc1@comcast.net)

### **Dues Payment - Mel Harder, secretary - dues are \$17/year**

**checks to YAGRS ASSOCIATION, mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862**

The current membership year ends May 31, 2017. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your current membership expires. If that date is **5/31/17** or earlier, your membership is expired. Please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive an updated membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Ship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Memo from Lee Doyel**

This is the commemorative photo that I had made and framed and put up in the Raddison hotel's military memorabilia passageway in Branson, MO. Copies (18"x24") can be ordered through me. It is \$30 including postage. If ordering DO NOT send me money. An invoice will be included with the photo.  
 Lee Doyel - yagrs16@cox.net

**YAGRS ASSOCIATION**



- USS GUARDIAN AGR-1
- USS LOOKOUT AGR-2
- USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3
- USS SEARCHER AGR-4
- USS INVESTIGATOR AGR-9
- USS OUTPOST AGR-10
- USS PROTECTOR AGR-11
- USS VIGIL AGR-12
- YR-23 YR-65



- USS SCANNER AGR-5
- USS LOCATOR AGR-6
- USS PICKET AGR-7
- USS INTERCEPTOR AGR-8
- USS INTERDICTION AGR-13
- USS INTERPRETER AGR-14
- USS TRACER AGR-15
- USS WATCHMAN AGR-16



**Sixteen Ships That Served As Radar Picket Ships During The Cold War  
1955 to 1965**

There were 8 ships on the West Coast and 8 ships on the East Coast that served as the seaward extension of the Distant Early Warning System (DEW line) of Canada and the United States. Patrols ranged from 25 to 45 days, and the ships were controlled by and reported to the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). The ships were equipped with the very latest electronic and radar equipment. They were converted World War II Liberty cargo ships. Although the patrols were long and boring, the ships, with all that room, had above average living conditions for Navy ships. In addition to the detection duties, the ships performed navigation assistance to commercial aircraft as well as scientific sea and fishing research. The ships were a stopgap measure until over-the-horizon radar and satellite capabilities could be developed. They were "on the point" and would have been the first to know about hostilities from the Soviet Union. They served with honor, and the East Coast ships performed a vital function in the Cuban missile crises of October 1962.



**AGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil**  
**YAGR'S BOOK ORDER**  
 Mail order is \$20.00 each, that includes postage.

No. Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt. Due \_\_\_\_\_

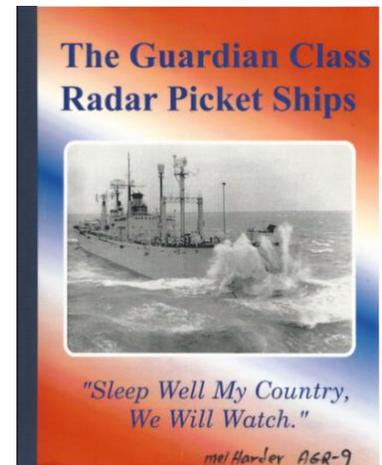
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

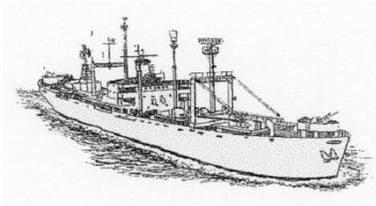
email \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and keep for receipt:  
 Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440  
 E-mail: [runinmuck@yahoo.com](mailto:runinmuck@yahoo.com)



# See Stories

send your sea stories to  
mel.harder@snet.net



On Jan 31, 2017, at 4:54 PM, Lawrence Mason Arrington, Sr <[6to4to3doubleplay@gmail.com](mailto:6to4to3doubleplay@gmail.com)> wrote:

My name is Lawrence M. Arrington EN2, known to most of the crew as "skin". I was on the USS Interpreter AGR14 from Dec. 1959 until Aug. 1963.

I forgot the year, I think it was 1961. The Interpreter was due for a total overhaul, but before we could go into dry dock we had to unload all the ammunition we had onboard at Port Chicago, in the upper San Francisco bay. We docked in Port Chicago late in the afternoon, but had to wait until the next day to unload. After unloading the ammo, due to bad weather and high tide we had to wait for morning to return to Treasure Island. The luck of the Irish, the next day was solid fog all day. Next day just as bad, solid fog you couldn't see bow to stern. On day three I guess the skipper had had enough of the fog, so as soon as the sun peaked through the fog we got word to cast off and head for T.I. We couldn't have been more than a 1/4 mile from the dock when the fog returned twice as bad as before, and for some reason we continued to head for Treasure Island, when all of a sudden, WHAM! Our screw picked up a buoy chain and killed us dead in the water. We began to drift with the tide out to sea.

There is a bridge in the San Francisco Bay called the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. Now this bridge had only been hit by a ship one time and now thanks to the BIG EYE FROM T.I. it had been hit twice. We bounced off that thing and when the buoy chain reached it's end there we were just sitting there.

Now we couldn't call A.A.A., so who do we have to call? - the dreaded Coast Guard. When they arrived the divers went down and unhooked the buoy chain and checked the hull for damage. After making their inspection our Captain was told that everything was O.K. and that all three blades of the screw were in good shape. To this the Captain informed them our screw had four blades. Well due to muddy water and fast moving tide the divers couldn't recheck, so they towed us back to Treasure Island where they checked and found that sure enough we did have four blades.



The next morning the Captain and the X.O. left the ship in their dress blues. I don't know what happened next, but I don't recall seeing them again.

## **John Schaffer (AGR-8, 1959-62)**

USS Interceptor AGR-8 on a port call to Portland, OR on Armed Forces day 1960 handed out a booklet with the below listed information:

- (1) The ship uses about 3,000 gallons of fuel a day.
- (2) It carries enough fuel for three round trips from San Francisco to Japan.
- (3) Electrical power generated will supply power for a small rural community.
- (4) The ship's laundrymen will wash and dry 2,500 pounds of clothes a week.
- (5) They will press 55 shirts and 40 pairs of trousers per week.
- (6) The ship's Corpsman disperses about 20 aspirin and 12 bandaids a day.
- (7) We use about 20 pounds of coffee a day and break almost one cup a day.
- (8) We serve 9 gallons of ice cream per meal.
- (9) To paint the ship, it requires 60 gallons to paint the main deck and about 75 gallons to paint the hull. This is done 4 times a year.

sea stories cont.

### **Anthony Guglielmo (AGR-4, 1955-56)**

While I was on the Searcher, we had a fellow, whose name was Haws. He was a career guy and was a BM1. He was a salty dude and really knew his business. He was very serious and real Navy.

When we would get new personnel assigned to the ship, we would be required to show them around. When we were at sea we would do the following

1. Advise them which was windward, and which was leeward.
2. Provide them with a bucket and instruct them to carry same at all times.

3. Part of the tour was to take them to the fore castle. While there we would show them the "HAWSE PIPES" indicating the following:

These are HAWSE PIPES, through which the anchor chain travels. Write this down and remember it. Every ship in the United States Navy has these pipes. They are named for the senior Boatswain Mate First Class on each ship. We have Boatswain Mate First Class Haws so they are called "HAWSE PIPES" on the Searcher.

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### **Memo from Mel Harder, Secretary**

Current YAGR membership is 429. The chart to right lists current members by hull #, and the totals for crew lists. The total of 469 members by hull # is greater than current membership of 429 because many members served on more than one AGR.

As I receive dues paid notices from YAGR treasurer Armand Lamarche, I update the member list and send out updated membership cards and crew lists. Names are removed from the current member list when I receive notice that a member has passed away; if I receive a request to have a name removed; or when dues payment falls 2 years behind.

Member names on crew lists, which includes past and current members, are never removed. If I receive notice of a member's passing, it is noted on the crew list. Contact information is updated on crew list as received. Crew lists are sent out for printing once a year, so the crew list you have may not have updated contact info received after printing. If you would like the most current crew list, send me an email at [mel.harder@snet.net](mailto:mel.harder@snet.net).

YAGR'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT AS OF June 4, 2017			
CURRENT MEMBERS BY HULL # & TOTALS FOR CREW LISTS			
HULL #	SHIP'S NAME	BY HULL #	BY CREW LISTS
AGR-1	USS GUARDIAN	45	190
AGR-2	USS LOOKOUT	37	164
AGR-3	USS SKYWATCHER	38	185
AGR-4	USS SEARCHER	37	178
AGR-5	USS SCANNER	28	118
AGR-6	USS LOCATOR	11	118
AGR-7	USS PICKET	14	109
AGR-8	USS INTERCEPTOR	24	137
AGR-9	USS INVESTIGATOR	23	154
AGR-10	USS OUTPOST	45	160
AGR-11	USS PROTECTOR	34	186
AGR-12	USS VIGIL	39	154
AGR-13	USS INTERDICTOR	13	87
AGR-14	USS INTERPRETER	11	91
AGR-15	USS TRACER	32	171
AGR-16	USS WATCHMAN	19	106
YR-65	YR-65	12	61
TOTALS		469	2369

YAGRGRAMS are published three times a year; fall/winter, spring and summer.

