



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #20

Spring 2001

C/O Harry Miller, 230 West Forest Ave Pawtucket, RI 02860-3318 (401) 724-7278 e-mail YAGR@MSN.COM

6th Annual Radar Picket Ship Reunion

June 14, 15, 16, 2001

San Diego, CA

Town & Country Resort Hotel & Convention Center

500 Hotel Circle North

San Diego, CA 92108

1-800-772-8527

Room Rate \$90.00 per night

When you call the hotel to make your room reservations, let them know that you are with the YAGR'S group. You must make your room reservations by May 25, 2001 to guarantee that you will receive this special rate, but more important that a room will be available for you. The Town & Country will extend the \$90.00 rate for 3 days before and 3 days after the reunion dates. If you have any problems making your reservations, get in touch with me. A note to smokers: Make sure you inform the hotel that you want a smoking room.

The Town and Country covers an area of over 40 acres of gardens and grounds. It also offers 5 restaurants - everything from a deli and food court to fine dining. While this is a large complex, all of our function rooms will be close to one another.

For those of you who will not have a car, the San Diego trolley stops adjacent to the hotel (a 2 minute walk). This will get you to most of the area attractions and downtown San Diego; and if you walk for another minute, you will be at the Fashion Valley Mall.

If you are arriving by car, parking will cost \$6.00 per night (all of the local hotels charge for parking). You will be within a 10 or 15 minute drive of the area's attractions. RV's are able to park on site, parking only.

You can view the hotel's web page at

<http://www.towncountry.com>

Reservations and Hotel rooms

If you have not yet made your reservations, now is the time to do so. I checked with the hotel and we were getting very close to booking all the rooms that YAGR'S had set aside. Don't wait. You might not be able to get a room.



Reunion Registration

You will notice that we have changed the registration fee format this year. The new format is as follows:

Dues paying members and their spouses/guests - the cost will be \$75.00 per person

Non dues paying members and their spouses/guests - the cost will be \$85.00 per person

A dues paying member is anyone who has paid his dues for the YAGR'S year of June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001. To determine whether you have paid your dues, look on the mailing label on the envelope that this YAGRGRAM came in. If there is a date above your name, you have paid your dues. If there is no date above your name, your dues are now due.

If you have paid your dues and a date is not above your name, get in touch with me so we can straighten it out. Also if you have any questions in regards to this, please get in touch with me.

Everyone who has sent me their reunion registration fee was sent a confirmation of receipt. If you have not received it, please get in touch with me.

Reunion Schedule

The reunion format will be the same as the past 5 reunions. The hospitality room will be kept open as much as possible.

Thursday the 14th will be for checking in at the hotel and our hospitality room to pick up your reunion packet.

Friday the 15th group tour with lunch.

Saturday the 16th in the morning the men will hold their meeting. At the same time the spouses/guests will be holding their penny social/breakfast. Saturday evening will be the banquet for all. The dress for the evening: men usually wear a suit or sport jacket, women a dress or pant suit.

Sunday the 17th of June check out of hotel. Reunion comes to a close. Have a safe trip home.

Pre-Reunion Activities

Cocktail Party

Tuesday June 12

6:00pm to 11:00pm

Mike NeSmith (AGR-9, 1961-63) has invited the early arrivals to a buffet and cocktail party. Mike has graciously offered to host this event at his home at no cost to the Association.

He will also be providing transportation service from the hotel to his house which is a short distance from the hotel.

If you plan on attending let me know by April 30, 2001 as the final plans need to be made by that date.

Mike has a heated pool which he will have open for anyone who would like to take a dip while there. Changing facilities will be available. He also said no lifeguard will be on duty and he asks that you bring your own towel.

Optional Pre-Reunion Tour

Wednesday June 13

The response to this tour has been great. A lot of us will be spending additional time in the San Diego area and have opted to use this pre-reunion tour as a way of seeing some of the sights.

This year's pre-reunion tour will be a San Diego Harbor Dinner Cruise. The tour will be held on June 13, 2001. We will depart the hotel at **6:30pm and return at 10:30pm**. The cost will be \$58.00 per person (actual cost). This includes bus transportation. The following information was taken out of the tour company's brochure.

"This fun evening consists of a 2 1/2 hour dinner cruise! The scrumptious menu consists of a double entree including filet mignon and chicken cordon bleu, salad, rice pilaf, fresh vegetables, rolls, dessert and coffee. After dinner, take advantage of the music and dance floor, or enjoy a stroll under the stars on the top deck of the ship."

You will notice that the tour is in the evening. We decided to do this as quite a few people will be arriving later in the evening on Wednesday. This gives more people the opportunity to go on the tour. Plus it will be a enjoyable evening!

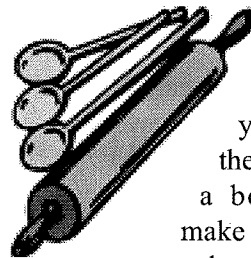


Spouses/Guests

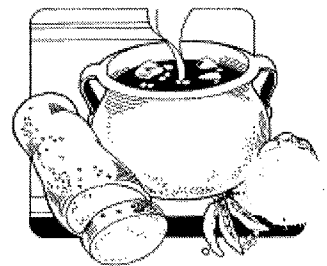


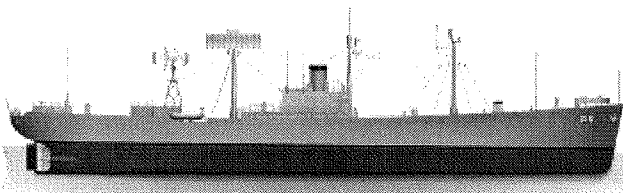
Once again we will have our penny social following the Saturday morning breakfast. This has proved to be very popular in the past. We are asking each of the spouses/guests to bring an inexpensive item that will be raffled off. Homemade craft items are certainly most welcome. Note: There is no cost involved with this raffle, as tickets will be provided to all.

Just a reminder that we will have a tee shirt contest after the Saturday morning breakfast. Decorate a tee shirt that somehow (no matter how loosely) relates to your home state. You still have time to come up with a good idea. Let your imagination run wild.



We are asking each of the spouses/guests to bring 1 or 2 of their favorite recipes to the reunion. Write them down and put them in your suitcase now so you don't forget them. We will gather all the recipes into a booklet and make it available to our members. Be certain they can be easily read and that all ingredients and instructions are accurate. Include your name, which will be included in the recipe book. Also include your phone number (will not be published).





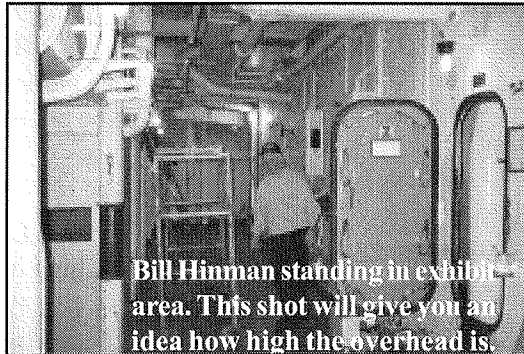
Radar Picket Ship Exhibit

USS Massachusetts
Located At Fall River, MA
Work Onboard

It has been just a little over one year since we started work on the Massachusetts. It is hard to believe so much has been done in this time with the limited amount of manpower available. The work done so far has been varied, from making models and displays, signs, the bull work of removing material from the compartment, welding and cutting, grinding of welds off the deck and finish carpentry work. We are a versatile group. Also it has been almost 3 years since we started collecting money for this project. Again you came through with your generous donations. We as a group will ensure that the general public will know of the Officers and Crews that manned the RADAR PICKET SHIPS (YAGR's) (AGR's) the trying times of the cold war.

Also, something of interest in regards to our exhibit. I believe this will be the only exhibit that is set up onboard a ship to showcase an auxiliary type Naval vessel, and most certainly, it will be the only one to show a specific auxiliary class - and a so called minor class at that. This is something I think we can all be proud of. Now, on to what has been happening onboard the Massachusetts.

Progress on the exhibit has slowed somewhat due to the cold New England weather. The ship is in the process of arranging to heat the exhibit area but it is not hooked up yet. Without heat in the compartment, the painting cannot be done. To paint without heat would just have the paint peel off in sheets at a later date. At this time we think the painting will start in late April or early May if the weather cooperates.



Bill Hinman standing in exhibit area. This shot will give you an idea how high the overhead is.

The cleaning and washing of over 40 or 50 year's worth of dust and dirt has been ongoing. At this time, approximately 40 percent of the overhead and bulkheads have been cleaned. This cleanup is a time consuming and labor intensive proposition as this is a large space (50' wide by 20' long and some of the overhead is about 18' feet high). All cable runs and duct work have to be thoroughly cleaned and you all know how hard this can be. Also the masking of the bright work and equipment labels is just about done.

Roland Cote, (AGR-10, 1960-62) and Harry Miller, (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65 1964-65) have gone onboard a few times to catch up on odds and ends to keep things moving along.

We also held another work weekend (March 17, 18 and 19). This group included John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-61), Tom Giardina (AGR-3, 1961-63), Bill Hinman (AGR-4, 1955-57), Tom Manning (AGR-4, 1955-57) and Curt Willbanks, (AGR-4, 1955-57). This was the first time Curt was able to make it onboard to help. Curt came up from Connecticut

On this weekend we refurbished the history of radar displays by replacing electrical wiring and plugs, then powering the units up to make sure all light fixtures were operating. We also had to finish the installation of the track lighting by welding up a few more brackets that will hold the track up.

If anyone would like to be added to our list of people who are willing to do some work on the ship, please get in touch with

me and I'll add you to our list. If you do not live in the area, don't worry about that as we are put up on the ship at night.

Funding Of The Exhibit

As you know by now we are trying to raise \$10,000.00 for the exhibit. To date we have collected \$8,934.35, which leaves us \$1,065.65 short of this goal.

With the last YAGRGRAM you received a book of 50/50 raffle tickets which we hope you will take. The tickets are \$1.00 each or \$5.00 for the book of six. Please return the tickets stubs (this is the section with the name and address) along with your check to me by **May 18, 2001**. Make checks payable to YAGR'S. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the funding of the exhibit. I would appreciate your returning any unused tickets so I can pass them along to others who would like more than one book of tickets. If you want additional tickets, please get in touch with me and I will send them right out to you..

A thank you goes out to everyone who has taken the 50/50 raffle tickets !!

The winning ticket will be drawn in San Diego, CA at the crew meeting. The winner does not have to be present to win. Last year's winner of the raffle won \$819.00 and we are well on our way to surpassing that amount in this year's raffle.

For those of you who are unable to help with the shipboard work, this is an ideal way to show your support for this project. If everyone takes a book of raffle tickets, we will meet our goal.

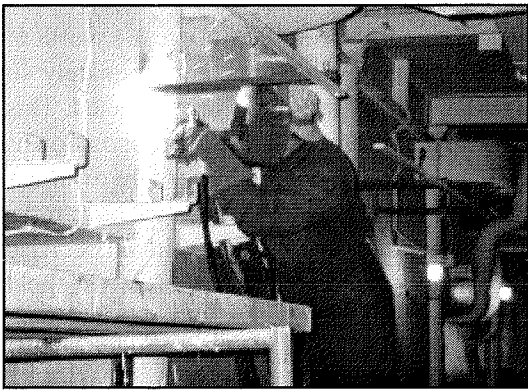
Newport, Rhode Island

Newport, Rhode Island will be the location for our 7th Reunion.

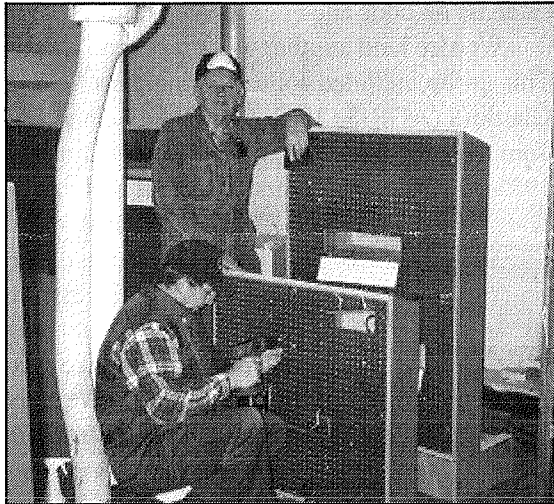
The dates are May 28, 29, 30, 2002.

More information will follow in the next YAGRGRAM.

One thing to remember is that at this reunion we will be dedicating our exhibit on the USS Massachusetts.



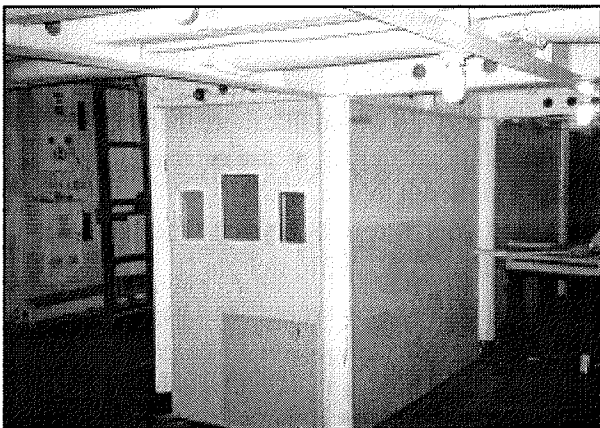
Harry Miller welding brackets that the track lights will be mounted to.



Curt Willbanks (standing) and Tom Giardina working on the back of a radar display.



John Hemminger (foreground) and Tom Manning getting ready to make a cut for an access panel.



New bulkheads that were built and installed. Note openings on end that will house displays.

Needed For Exhibit

At this time we are still looking for the following items for the exhibit on the Massachusetts. It will be a shame not to have the following items on display.

Shoulder Patches (Ship Names)

Picket

Interdictor

Tracer

Cigarette Lighters

AGR 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13, 16.

YAGR 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15

Pictures that show the ships in rough seas or covered with ice

Time is running short so please check to see if you have any of the above items so that we can include them in our exhibit.

Off Site Work Going On

YR-65 Model

Bill Simcox (AGR-4, 1960-61)

has been working on the model of the YR-65 that will be put on display on the Massachusetts.

Ship Plaques

Lee Doyel (AGR-15, 1960-62)

is refurbishing the ships emblems that we have collected.

Plastic Cover For Model

Howard Wood (AGR-10, 1964-65, YR-65, 1965)

of the Wood Shed located in Sioux Fall, SD has made a new lexan (plexiglass) cover for the Guardian model.

Custom Signs

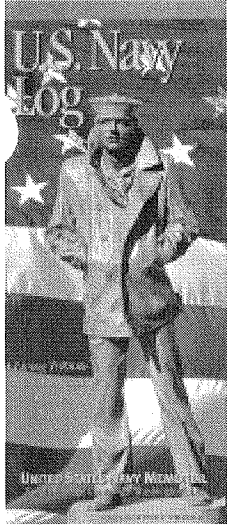
Jeff Cahill (AGR-1, 1964-65)

of Quality Signs & Designs located in Colorado Springs, CO will be manufacturing additional signs for the exhibit.

Information Wanted

We would like to get information on the radar systems that were in use onboard the ships. What is especially needed is technical manuals, course books, schematics, etc. Anything you send will be returned to you. **It is very important that we get this information as soon as possible!**

We haven't had any response on this request. There must be somebody out there who has some of this information



The United States Navy Memorial Foundation in Washington, DC has established the "Navy Log" in an effort to honor all naval veterans that have served our country. The Naval Log includes Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines. The Navy Log has thus far collected the names, service information and photographs of over a quarter of a million service personnel. All enrollments form a part of America's enduring naval heritage, a permanent and publicly accessible video register available for reviewing at the Naval Heritage Center next to the Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue, midway between the White House and the Capitol, or on the Memorial's internet web site, www.lonesailor.org.

Write: U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation
Attn: Navy Log, (Dept R)
701 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 123
Washington, DC 20004-2608 or call
1-800-821-8892 ext 730

Sea Stories

Dan Moore (AGR-9, 1962-65)

It was Thanksgiving Day aboard the Investigator on station in the Atlantic. Looking forward to a great turkey dinner with all the trimmings, we eagerly sat down at the wardroom table with taste buds all aquiver. Because of the lengthy preparation time due to the scope of the meal, the stewards were not ready to serve at the normal time. Some of us were ravenous and started eating the rolls which were attractively arranged on the table. After eating 2 or 3 rolls each, we complained to one of the stewards that the rolls were tasty but a little stale. The steward replied "Yes gentlemen, I know the rolls are stale. You just ate the centerpiece."

Charlie Hooper, (AGR-5, 1956-57)

While my ship, the USS Scanner YAGR-5, was tied up in Panama en route from its commissioning in Norfolk, VA to its home port of Treasure Island, an interesting event transpired.

The ship's helm, an expensive wood and brass thing mysteriously disappeared overnight. Rumor had it that it was deep sixed. In the ensuing investigation, all the ship's crew were questioned individually in a vain attempt to find the culprit.

In spite of all the expertise in the Naval investigation no one was fingered for the crime. I'm told that later on the thief voluntarily returned the helm. While I know his identity, I choose not to reveal it. It was not I!

William Balderson, Jr. (AGR-4, 1963-65)

It was early March of 1964. The USS Searcher (AGR-4) was on "picket" on one of the northern stations. Due to the time of year the seas were continuously rough. For several days, the bow would drop like a rock with the resulting stern coming out of the water. With no water tension on the sole propeller the whole ship would shudder for about 30 seconds with each occurrence.

I had the noon to 1600 watch this day as O.D. In spite of the

weather and the heavy pitch of the ship, we were riding well and the ship was relatively stable. I was relieved at 16:45 by LTJG Charles Mullen. A few minutes later the ship was a "rocking and a rolling - big time." Since my quarters were right off the bridge, I went to the bridge to give Charlie and his crew a zing due to the ship's movements. As I entered the bridge I could see the RPM indicator was at "zero." When I saw this I figured Old Josh (the engine) needed a rest. I turned to Charlie. The look on his face said it all. I realized there was a BIG problem as he stated the "screw had fallen off." Very quickly all the water tight hatches were sealed as a preventive measure. "Pop" Sheeley, who was the MPA, was concerned that we would take on water through the shaft alley. We were lucky as the propeller shaft broke in such a manner as to prevent the inflow of sea water.

Searcher was now at the mercy of the mighty Atlantic in her worst mood. Within about twelve hours the seas started to diminish and within 18 hours the USCGC Yakatat took us in tow. About a day later a Navy Fleet Tug picked up the tow from the Yakatat and towed us to the famous Brooklyn Naval ship yard for a new propeller.

And so ended a most memorable picket. We were all most thankful that no one sustained any injuries.

Collage Of Pictures

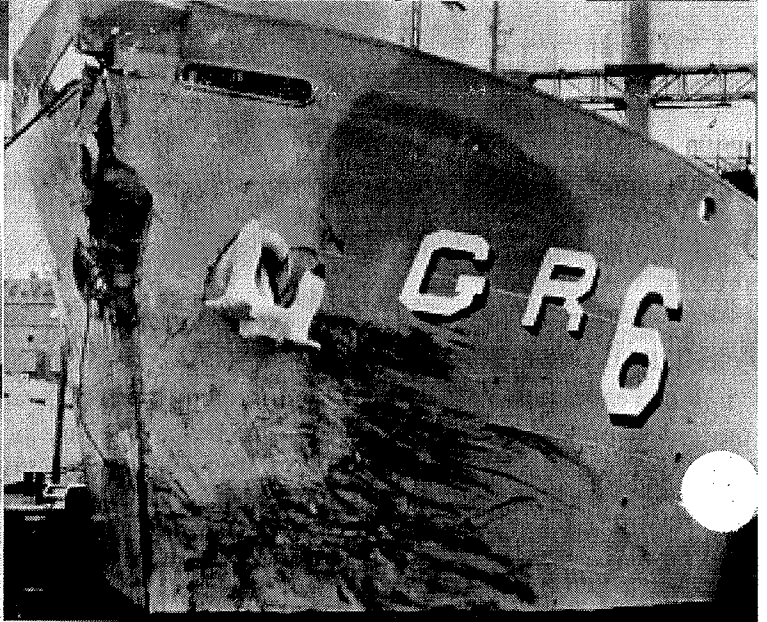
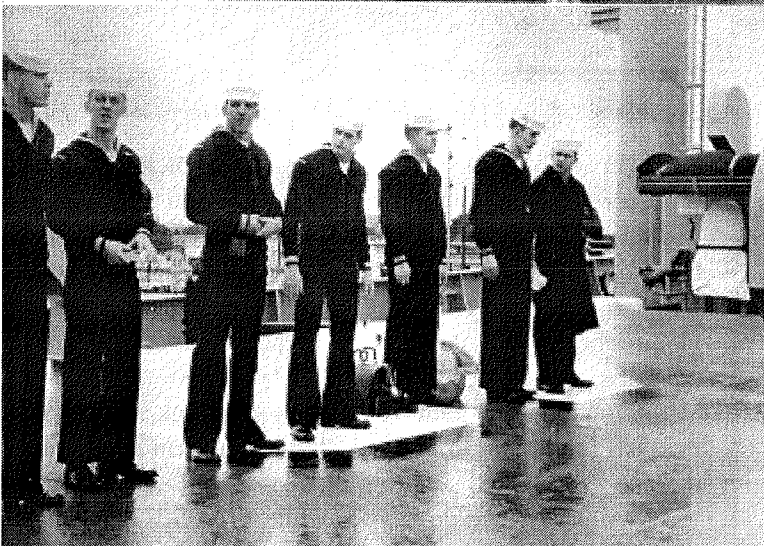
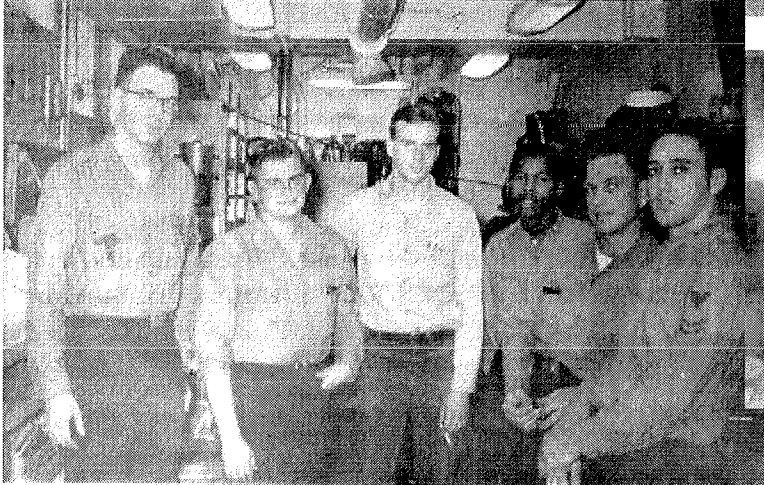
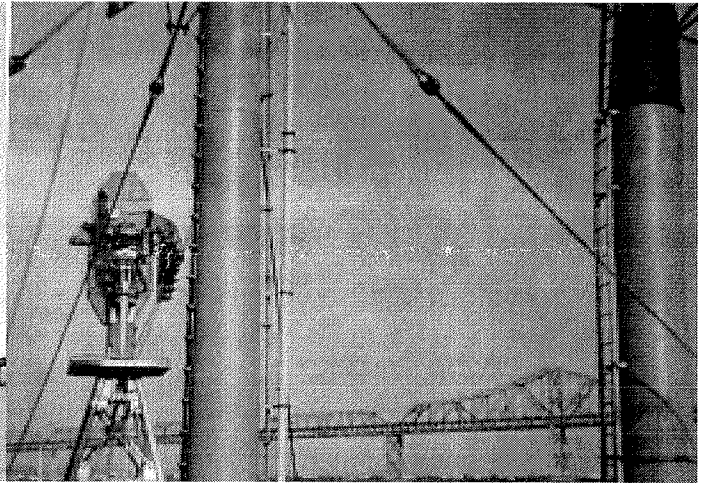
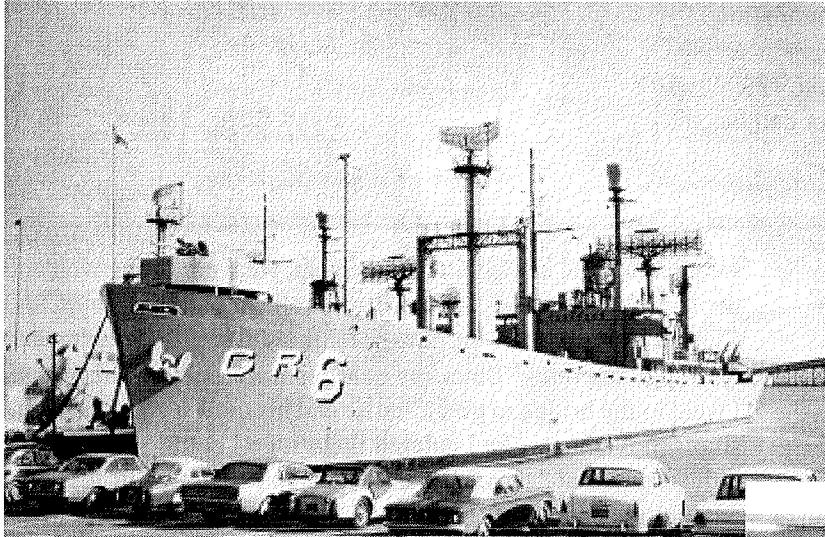
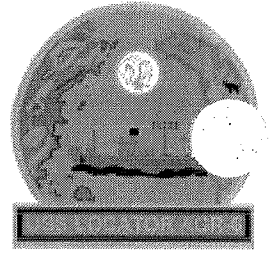
Every so often I will include a collage of pictures for a different ship. On the following page I elected to start off with the USS Locator AGR-6. These pictures were taken for a booklet that I received from Donald Steinkuehler (AGR-6, 1963-65). I have made no attempt to describe the pictures or identify the crewmen in them, as most of them are self explanatory.

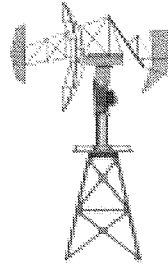
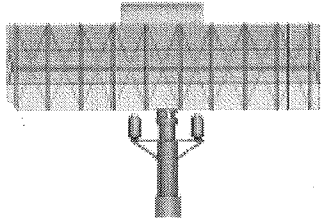
If you have any pictures or slides you think will be of interest, send them to me and I will scan them and save them to a disk and then return them to you.

I will try to include them in a future YAGRGRAM.



U.S.S. Locator AGR-6

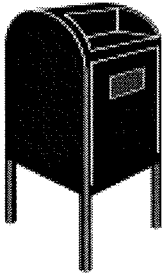




YAGR'S Web Page

<http://members.tripod.com/~YAGRS/index.html>

Note: when you go to access the web site,
the Letters YAGRS are in capital letters.



Are you planning a move, or have you just recently moved? If so, don't forget to send us your new address and phone number.

We lose track of 2 or 3 crewmen after every YAGRGRAM goes out because they moved and never let us know their new address.

We don't want to lose track of you!

Dues

Are you caught up on your dues ?

Just a reminder that the YAGR'S year runs from
June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001.

If you haven't paid your dues for our current year please make an effort to do so. I know doing so can be very easy to forget, so why not do it now!

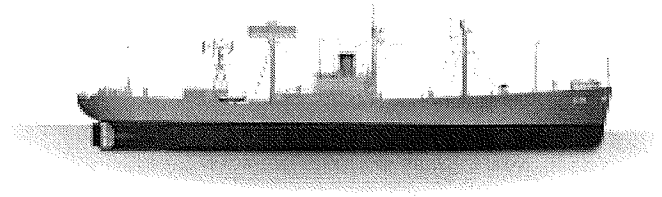
Dues are \$17.00 the first year you pay and \$15.00 every year after. The reason for the \$17.00 the first year is that this extra \$2.00 helps in the funding for locating former crewmen.

YAGR'S

1,484 Former Crewmen Located

If you have any information on any former crewmen, please get it to me and I'll try to locate them. If you know of someone, touch with them and let them know that an organization has formed for the Radar Picket Ships.

Anything you can do to locate former shipmates will be greatly appreciated.



RADAR PICKET SHIP FACTS

Fire Plugs

Location	NO.
02 Level -----	2
01 Level -----	4
Main Deck -----	13
2nd Deck -----	6
Machinery Space -----	3
	Total -- 28

Accommodations

Available Berthing

Location	Personnel
02 Level -----	3
01 Level -----	11
Main Deck -----	27
2nd Deck -----	132
	Total -- 173

The above information was taken off of
plans for the USS Interpreter AGR-14

Send Out A Reunion Notice

If your local newspaper has a column that features reunions and events, or if you belong to any organization that sends out magazines or newsletters, please send them a notice that we will be holding our reunion. Here is a sample of what you might send:
Feel free to change this as you deem necessary. RADAR PICKET SHIPS (YAGR'S) USS Guardian AGR-1, Lookout AGR-2, Skywatcher AGR-3, Searcher AGR-4, Scanner AGR-5, Locator AGR-6, Picket AGR-7, Interceptor AGR-8, Investigator AGR-9, Outpost AGR-10, Protector AGR-11, Vigil AGR-12, Interdictor AGR-13, Interpreter AGR-14, Tracer AGR-15, Watchman AGR-16, USS YR-23 and USS YR-65 while attached to RADRON TWO, and staff

will be holding their 6th reunion in San Diego, CA on June 14,15 and 16, 2001. For more information, contact Harry Miller, 230 W. Forest Ave, Pawtucket, RI 02860 (401) 724-7278 e-mail yagr@msn.com

6th Annual Reunion

San Diego, CA

June 14, 15, 16, 2001

Reunion Registration

\$75.00 Per Person (Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

\$85.00 Per Person (Non Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

Please Return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than May 18, 2001

The reunion registration covers
hospitality room with beverages and light snacks
Friday tour with lunch
Saturday morning spouses/guests breakfast
Saturday night banquet
and an enjoyable weekend

Name _____

Name Of Spouse/Guest _____

Ship Served On _____ Date On Board _____ Rate _____

Ship Served On _____ Date On Board _____ Rate _____

Number Of People Attending _____ X \$75.00 = \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____
Dues Paying Member

Number Of People Attending _____ X \$85.00 = \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____
Non Dues Paying Member

For Officers: What Rank Did You Retire At _____

Make All Checks Payable To YAGR'S

This information will be used for your name tags. Use the name you want printed on your name tag

Pre-reunion Tour
Wednesday June 13, 2001
San Diego Dinner Cruise

\$58.00 per person

6:30 pm to 10:30 pm

**NOTE: If you are going on the tour, please include
the tour fee with your reunion registration.**

Names of people going on dinner cruise

Number of people _____ X \$58.00 = \$ _____

Tuesday evening June 12, 2001 (6 to 11pm) buffet and cocktail party @Mike NeSmith house. There is no charge. Transportation provided.

Will you be attending. Yes _____ How Many _____ No _____