



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #24

### Spring 2002

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## Rhode Island

## The Ocean State

Average Temperatures In May

High 69.1° Low 48.7° Mean 58.9°

## YAGR'S 7th Reunion

**Location:** Newport, RI  
**Dates:** Tuesday May 28, Wednesday May 29  
and Thursday May 30, 2002  
**Hotel:** Best Western Mainstay  
151 Admiral Kalbfus Rd.  
Newport, RI 02840  
401-849-9880  
**Room rate:** \$68.00 per night

Be sure to mention you are part of the YAGR'S reunion when you make your reservation to get the special rate.

There are just a few of the 165 rooms still available that we had set aside for us at the Mainstay. It looks like we will have the entire hotel to ourselves.

The Mainstay has made arrangements to use another hotel for the overflow. If you call the Mainstay and have a problem reserving a room, ask to speak to Judy or Lucy. If they are not there, leave your name and phone number and they will call you back.

### Reunion Registration

**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

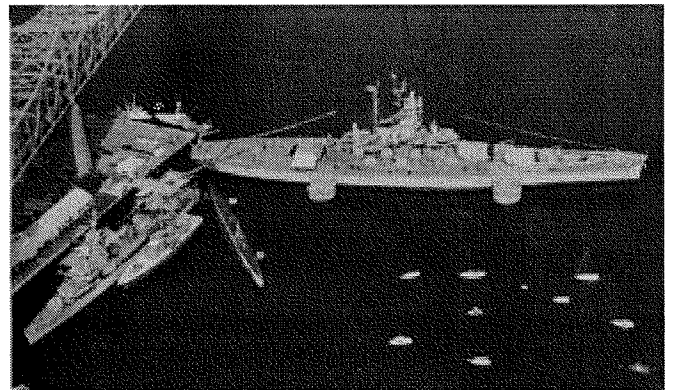
**Confirmation of received payment will be sent to you. If you do not receive one in a timely manner, please get in touch with me.**

### Reunion Schedule

The reunion format will be the same as the past 6 reunions. The hospitality room has soda, beer, wine, drinks and light snacks and will be kept open as much as possible.

**Tuesday May 28** will be for checking in at the hotel and our hospitality room to pick up your reunion packet.

**Wednesday May 29, 9:00 am** We will board buses for transport to the Battleship Massachusetts located in Fall River, MA. Once onboard the ship, we will dedicate our exhibit.



You will be free to tour the Battleship and other vessels located at Battleship Cove. We will be served lunch on the Battleship. We plan to return to the hotel at approx 2:00 pm.

**Thursday May 30 morning** We will hold our business meeting in the morning. While we are doing this, our spouses/guests will have their breakfast/penny social. **Thursday night** we will depart the hotel by bus for our farewell banquet. The dress for this evening: men usually wear a suit or sport jacket, women a dress or suit.

For tourist information on Newport, RI you can contact  
Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau  
23 America's Cup Blvd.  
Newport, RI 02840  
1-800-326-6030

## Pre-reunion tour

On Monday May 27 we will once again offer a pre-reunion tour. The cost of this tour is \$39.00 per person. **It does not include lunch.** The tour buses will depart the Best Western Mainstay at 8:30 am *sharp*, and return at approx. 4:30 pm.

### Tour Information

#### *Step Back in Time to Plymouth, Massachusetts*

Experience a day in the 17th century. Our tour guide will narrate enroute. We begin the tour by visiting Plimoth Plantation, an authentically re-created living museum where skilled interpreters portray historic characters from the days of the Pilgrims. From here we travel on to see the reproduction of the Mayflower and view Plymouth Rock. Enjoy free time to shop in Plymouth, have lunch, or perhaps visit the Cranberry World Visitors Center.

## Veterans Information

Bob Campbell (AGR-12, 1957-58) Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Commission of Hamlington Townships, NJ will be on hand to answer questions and to offer assistance in finding out about information on your Federal Veterans benefits: medical, dental and prescription. He has asked that you bring a copy of your DD214 with you if you plan to talk to him. This will help in completing forms.

## Airport Shuttle Service

Thanks to Dan Skrezyna (AGR-7, 1958-60) for passing this information on to me.

A shuttle service is available from the Providence airport to the Newport, RI, hotels. Cozy Cab Company (1-800-81502) runs from the airport to Newport on even hours and from Newport back to the airport on odd hours. The cost is \$20.00 per person (driver gratuity not included). At this time of the year schedules can be off so it is strongly suggested that you call and make a reservation. This way Cozy Cab Co. will be able to schedule pickups without too much of a wait and to have enough vehicles available to handle everyone.

## A Note To Our Handicapped Members

The hospitality room we have at the hotel is located on the second floor and there is no elevator to reach this floor. To gain access to the battleship a steep brow (gangway) will have to be negotiated to reach the main deck. Also our exhibit is located on the second deck of the battleship. To reach it you will have to descend a steep ladder to reach the second deck.

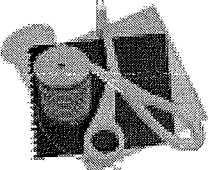
If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

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# Spouses / Guests

## Thursday Morning Function

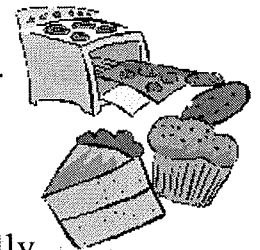


All of the spouses / guests are invited to the Thursday morning breakfast/penny social that is held while the men are at their meeting. The cost of the breakfast and raffle is part of your registration fee. If this is the first reunion you are attending, don't feel bashful; "come on down" and have a good time. We do ask that you bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. Yes, homemade craft items are certainly most welcome.

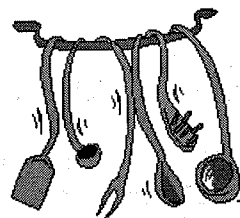
We will have a tee shirt contest also. It does not have to be a work of art. It is amazing what people will come up with. See if you can surprise us even more. This year's theme will be "food". Decorate your tee shirt that somehow relates to your favorite food; and if you have to make two shirts to show all your favorites, go ahead. You still have enough time to come up with a good idea.

## Cookbook

The cookbook is coming along. What we lack in quantity, we make up for quality.



Hopefully it will be ready for distribution at the Newport reunion.



## 50/50 Raffle

By now all of you have your 50/50 raffle tickets. As you know the proceeds from the sale of these tickets will be used to further the completion of our radar picket ship exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts. Also it is a way to win some money for yourself. Last year's winner took home \$1,216.00. This was not bad for an investment of \$5.00.

The 50/50 ticket returns have been good so far. In fact, the requests for extra tickets have been greater than I expected. The extra books of tickets that I have on hand are rapidly disappearing. If you want additional tickets, get in touch with me as soon as possible. The tickets are \$1.00 each or a book of 6 tickets for \$5.00. Please return the ticket stubs (this is the section with name and address) with your check made out to YAGRS to me by May 1, 2002. Also if you decide not to take any tickets, please return your tickets. They can be used by others.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the reunion on Thursday May 30, 2002.

**You do not have to be present at the reunion to win.**

## Radar Picket Ship Exhibit

USS Massachusetts

Fall River, MA

### Radar Picket Ships Dedication

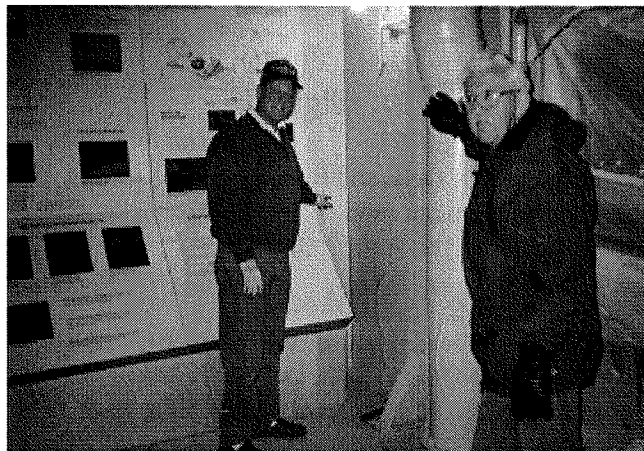
We will be dedicating our exhibit onboard the Battleship Massachusetts on Wednesday May 29, 2002. For those of you who will be wearing your uniforms, dress blues with ribbons is suggested. And as a reminder to the women, going up and down ladders can be tricky, so wear comfortable shoes.

### Onboard Work

It has been a busy time on the Massachusetts. We have installed the 16 signs (one for each ship) and a display case for one of our models. A lot of miscellaneous items are also being taken care of with a few additional items that we agreed to do for the ship.

We added a couple of panels to block off areas so that the public cannot get behind some displays. It was decided to weld an angle iron combing around the bulkheads we erected to give them a more finished look. A general clean up was started in preparation for the dedication. Included in the clean up: polishing lockers and brass tags throughout the compartment. We decided to scrape and prime the deck to get it ready for the final painting. Believe me this was not something that was taken on without any thought as we knew it would be a lot of hard work. We all have the blisters, cuts and scrapes to prove it.

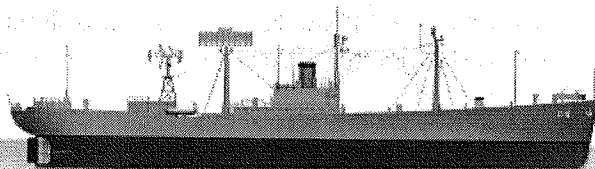
John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-62), Tom Giardina (AGR-3, 1961-63), Bill Hinman (AGR-4, 1955-57), Tom Manning (AGR-5, 1955-57), Don Batty (AGR-9, 1963-64), Roland Cote (AGR-10, 1960-62), Harry Miller (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65, 1964-65) and Al Nannini (AGR-15, 1960-62) have been working onboard the ship.



Don Batty pointing out his handywork (side panel) Al Nannini.



Section of deck that has been scraped and primed



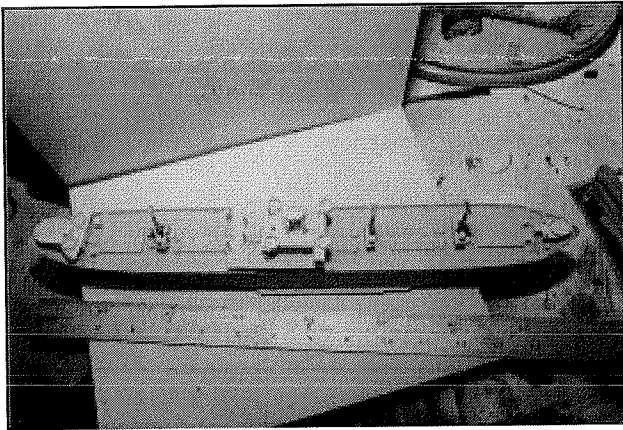
# Off Site Work Going On.

## Signs

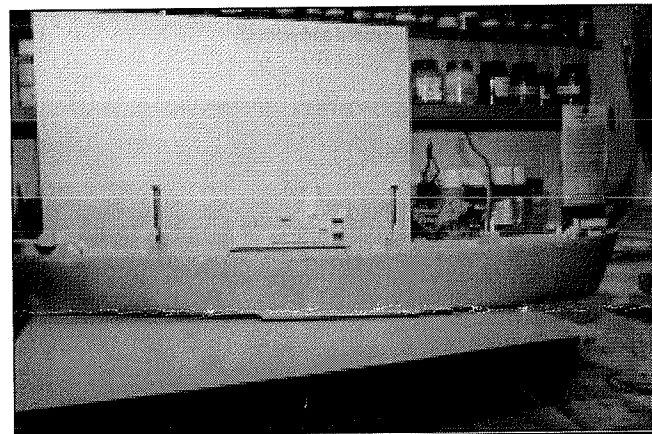
Jeff Cahill (AGR-1, 1964-65) is working on four signs that will identify RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO ships. He hopes to be shipping them out soon.

## Models

Bill "Doc" Wisemen, son of Bill Wisemen (AGR-10) is working on 2 models for the exhibit. One is of a boxed aircraft liberty ship and the other of a standard liberty ship. Both models are being built in the 1/350 scale.



Standard Liberty Ships, Note 5 hatches

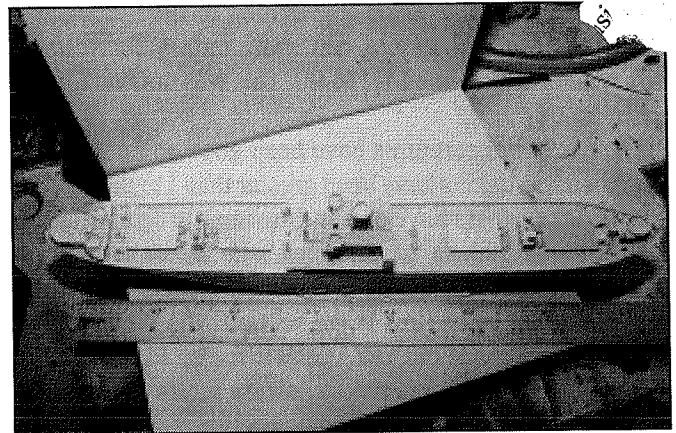


Starboard side of standard Liberty Ship

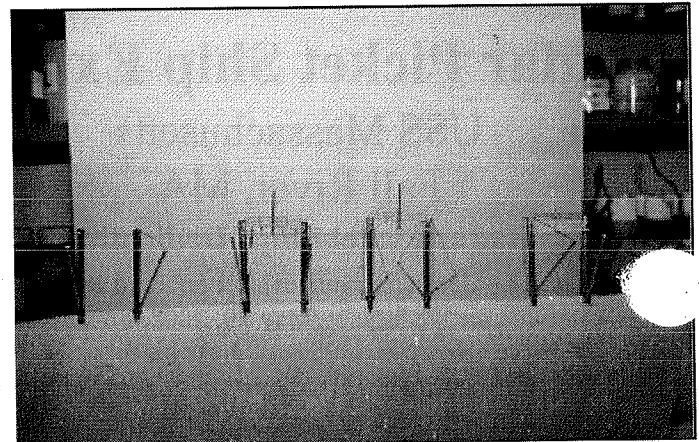
If you would like to build this model or scratch build it as a picket ship you can order it from:  
Commander Series Models, Inc  
551 Wegman Rd  
Rochester, NY 14624  
1-888-476-6744

The cost of this model is \$85.00. Let them know that you are with YAGRS to get this special rate.

If you would like to talk to "Doc" about building a model for you, he can be reached at 845-567-0476.



Boxed Aircraft Liberty Ship, Note 4 hatches



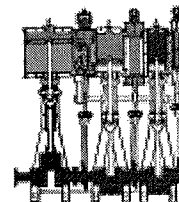
Goal type post on Boxed Liberty Ship that has been scratch built for model.

## Radarmen

I am looking for information on the equipment and layout of C.I.C. onboard the ships. Also if anyone has pictures of C.I.C., I would like to see them.

I would especially like to talk to the radarmen who live in the Providence, RI or Fall River, MA area, or someone who would like to travel up to Fall River to go on board the Battleship Massachusetts with me.

In phase two of our exhibit we are thinking of setting up an AGR C.I.C. and we need the help of someone who has knowledge of equipment and the layout.



**Pre-reunion Tour  
Monday May 27, 2002  
Tour of Plymouth Rock And  
Plimouth Plantations  
\$39.00 per person**

Names of people going on tour

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Number people \_\_\_\_\_ X \$39.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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**7th Annual Reunion**

**Newport, RI**

**May 28, 29, 30, 2002**

**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 1, 2002**

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 members and guest

Number Of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$85.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-dues paying members and guests

**Make Check Payable To YAGR'S**

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

## Crewmen Located

1,651 Located

75 former crewmen have been added to our list since the last YAGRGRAM went out. If you have any information on former crewmen, get in touch with me.

## Have You Moved ?????

After every YAGRGRAM that goes out, we lose a few members because they fail to update their new address.

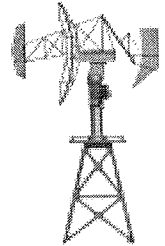
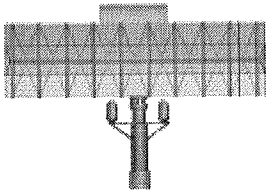
It is a shame that this has to happen since all it takes is a postcard or a phone call to let us know. Since the last newsletter went out, we have lost 3 men because they have moved and did not update us.

### YAGR'S Dues

**If you have not paid your dues for this year (June 1, 2001 - May 31, 2002), please do.**

Dues are \$17.00 the first year and \$15.00 each following year. If you have paid your dues, there will be a date above your name on the mailing label. If there is no date, your dues are not paid.

If you have paid your dues and there is not a date on the label or you have not received your membership card and your updated list of former crewmen from your ship/ships, please get in touch with me.



### Receive YAGRGRAMS By e-mail

YAGRGRAMS will be available in Adobe Portable Document format (PDF) to those of you who would like to receive it via e-mail 2 or 3 times a year. To be able to open the text and graphics that all YAGRGRAMS have, you must have **Acrobat® Reader** installed in your computer. Adobe Systems Incorporated makes **Acrobat® Reader** available at no charge to anyone who wishes a copy, and permits further distribution of this software. No endorsement or warranty is implied or expressed.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

Once you have it and are sure you have it working properly, you will be able to receive the YAGRGRAMS by e-mail.

To be added to the e-mail list

1. Make sure everything is set up on your end properly.
2. Send me an e-mail message saying that you want to be added to the list with your full name and ship served on. Please at this time have only this information in the e-mail message.
3. Once I receive your message I will send you a reply message in a PDF format. This way we will both know that you are able to receive and open the YAGRGRAM.
4. If you are having a problem, please do not ask me to try

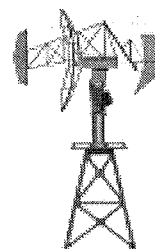
to troubleshoot what is wrong. I am not a computer person and you probably know more about computers than I do any way.

Something to keep in mind:

When receiving the YAGRGRAM, it can take a few minutes to download to your computer.

It is hoped that the Summer YAGRGRAM will go out via e-mail. But this will depend on how things go.

**So far 6 people have requested to receive the YAGRGRAM by e-mail. For this to work we will need more of you who want in.**



# Radar Station Ship Is Given Title Guardian

## First of Type, Vessel To Be Commissioned On Tuesday

The first Navy ocean radar station ship—the YAGR-1—was officially named yesterday. Navy Secretary Charles S. Thomas formally designated her the Guardian.

In announcing the names of the four new type vessels, Thomas cited them as "an essential factor in our national defense." The Guardian is the first Liberty ship to be converted as a radar station.

A sister ship to the Guardian, the YAGR-3, currently is being converted at Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth. She has been named the Skywatch. The other two radar-type vessels are being converted at the Charleston, S. C., Naval Shipyard. They are the Lookout (YAGR-2) and the Searcher (YAGR-4).

The Guardian is scheduled for commissioning at the Portsmouth yard in special ceremonies Tuesday. Completion of all four radar vessels is expected by May 1, a Navy spokesman said yesterday.

In a letter to the commanding officer of the Guardian, Lt. Robert E. Eullas, USN, Secretary Thomas emphasized the vital importance of the ship's role in national defense.

"The great import of your task and mission should be a challenge to you and the officers and men under your command, to establish and continue in the U.S. YAGR-1 these high standards and traditions of our Navy."

Eullas, who will officially assume command of the Guardian Tuesday, is a veteran of 25 years' Navy service. He entered the Navy in 1930 and worked his way to the top enlisted grade—chief petty officer quartermaster.

Early in 1943 he was appointed to the rank of warrant officer. Later that same year he was commissioned an ensign.

In 1944 he received a spot promotion to lieutenant and was assigned as commander of the LST-875. He commanded the ship during the Philippines and Okinawa campaigns.

He returned to East Coast duty

### 'Guardian' Skipper



Lt. Robert E. Eullas, USN

in 1947 and two years later took command of the LST-519. In 1952 he reported for duty with Fifth Naval District headquarters and was assigned to the office of the reserve coordinator. He recently was selected for the rank of lieutenant commander.

Eullas and his wife, Mary, live at 116 Burleigh Avenue. They have one son, Robert, Jr.

# VAGRGRAM'S

## Sea Stories

*Do you have any information or any sea stories that you think others might enjoy reading about? If you do, pass them along.*

*The sea stories that have been published in past VAGRGRAMS were enjoyed by many. I always get favorable remarks about them.*



Ed McGrath (AGR-7, 1957-1962)

As you know the picket ships were noted for their sophisticated radar and communications equipment. Well we were having an exercise with the Air Force from McChord AFB out of Seattle, and after some time the aircraft asked our ship if we had him yet on the scope. We told him "no". After a few seconds went by, he asked again if we had him on our scope and our CIC told him "no". Our CIC asked him where he was and he said he was directly over the ship. So our equipment was not as great as we were told.

We were surprised one early morning by having a sailboat on our starboard beam just sitting there. She never showed up on our radar and the bridge watch never reported seeing the sailboat all night. After sunrise the CO went to the side of the ship and asked the civilians on the sailboat what they wanted. They asked if we could spare them some napkins. The CO said "yes" and gave them the napkins. They then sailed off into the sea.

Joe Budniak (AGR-2, 1962-64)

I looked up from writing my reports yesterday to glance at the TV. Low and behold there appeared to be an AGR on the screen. It didn't allow me to catch a long look, but I believe it was the Searcher (AGR-4). It was at the beginning of a science fiction movie called "The Deadly Mantis" from 1957. The movie stressed the role of Norad, Pinetree Line, the DEW Line, Texas Towers along with DER's and the YAGR's in safeguarding the continent from nuclear attack.

It's nice to know we stood tall and performed to our optimum best in the face of a possible attack from the Reds, but failed to stop some 80' flying bug from attacking our Eastern shores.

## Hat Orders

In case you do not know, when we order hats each one is custom made. We do not have the advantage of ordering large quantities of hats and having them on hand as other groups have. Even so, we try to keep the cost of them reasonable. I think we have.

Our hat supplier has asked that when placing an order we order as large a quantity as possible. So keeping this in mind, we will only be ordering hats twice a year rather than the 4 times a year as we have in the past

## Payment By Check

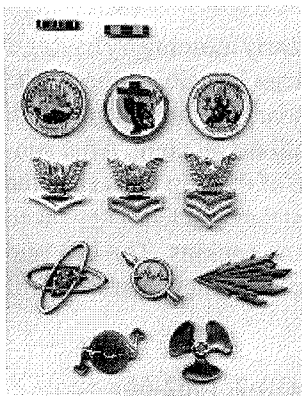
**Only one check is needed when you send your payments. You do not have to send a separate check each item. This includes dues, reunion registration, tours, raffle tickets and ships store items.**

**Make checks payable to YAGRS and send it to me.**



**If you placed an order for something and have not received it yet, please get in touch with me.**

The proceeds of items sold from the Ships Store will go towards the future expansion and upkeep of our exhibit onboard the Battleship Massachusetts. **The only exceptions will be for the Ship emblem pins. These proceeds will be used to obtain other ship emblems.**



The lapel pins are 5/8 inches long and in color.

YAGR'S logo pin is a new larger size pin (1 inch) than the previous one sold.

Hat specialty devices AG, BM, BT, DC, DK, GM, IC, EM, EN, ET, HM,\*HT, MM, MR, MS, QM, RD, RM, SH, SK, SM, YN, are on hand, but in a limited quantity. As I run out of them I will then have to order more. This could take up to 6 weeks to receive. Specify device desired.

\*New Shipfitter Rating

The USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3 and USS LOCATOR YAGR-6 ship emblem hat/lapel pins are in color and are 1 inch in diameter. These emblem pins are the first in a series that we hope to have available. As a note about the ship emblem pins: I have been told by a lot of you that you would buy pins for ships other than your own. If these pins do not sell, others will not be available! **At the rate these pins are selling, other pins will not be available in the near future.**

**Please Note:** Orders for hats and specialty devices must reach me by **April 18, 2002**. This is when orders will be placed with the suppliers. It can take up to six weeks after that for you to receive your order.

NAME _____					
ITEM	EACH		QUANTITY		SUBTOTAL
LAPEL PIN ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY	\$5.00	X		=	
LAPEL PIN NAVY EXPEDITIONARY	\$5.00	X		=	
YAGR'S LOCO HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.25	X		=	
USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.25	X		=	
USS LOCATOR YAGR-6 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.25	X		=	
SKYWATCHER AGR-3 LOCATOR YAGR-6 HAT/LAPEL PINS	BOTH PINS FOR \$8.00	X		=	
PO 3, PO 2, PO 1 CROW FOR HAT					
PO _____	\$4.25	X		=	
HAT SPECIALTY DEVICE SPECIFY DEVICE					
_____	\$4.50	X		=	
16 OZ. TRAVEL COFFEE MUG WITH YAGR'S LOGO	\$10.00	X		=	
HAT HULL # _____	\$18.50	X		=	
Make checks out to YAGR'S SHIPPING IS INCLUDED			TOTAL		\$ _____