



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #26

Fall 2002

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### YAGR'S 8th Reunion Pensacola, FL

YAGR'S will be holding its 8th reunion in Pensacola, FL on Thursday May 15, Friday May 16 and Saturday May 17, 2003.

The host hotel will be the

Holiday Inn, University Mall

7200 Plantation Rd.

Pensacola, FL 32504

National Reservation Line 1-800-465-4329

Whom you are with YAGR'S and give them the 3 digit code of 123.

Or you can call the hotel direct at 850-474-0100.

Our room rate is \$63.00 per night.

#### Reunion Registration Fee.

**Dues paying members and their spouses/guests -**

the cost is \$70.00 per person

**Non - dues paying members and their spouses/guests -**

the cost is \$80.00 per person

**A 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.**

#### Daily schedule of reunion

**The hospitality room will be kept open as much as possible all three days.**

##### Thursday May 15, 2003

Check into hotel and hospitality room to pick up your reunion packet

##### Friday, May, 16, 2003

Group tour of the Air Museum located at NAS Pensacola, followed by lunch at the Mustin Beach Officers Club.

#### Saturday morning May 17, 2003

Crewmens business meeting in the morning.

While we are doing this, the spouses/guests will have their breakfast/penny social.

#### Saturday night May 17, 2003

Our farewell banquet at the hotel. The dress for the evening; men usually wear a suit or a sport jacket, or your uniform if you prefer; for the women a dress or suit.

#### Pre-Reunion Tour

##### Wednesday May 14, 2003

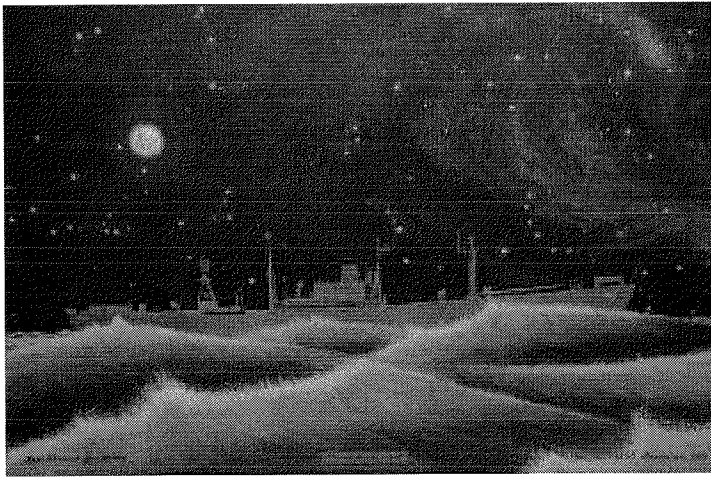
Depart hotel at 9:30 AM for a tour of historic Pensacola Village; then on to a Pensacola beach restaurant for lunch. After lunch we will bus to the Gulf Islands Seashore and a visit to Fort Pickens, (a 30 minute tour will be given by a park ranger at the fort), then on to the Veterans Memorial Park. We should be back at the hotel by 3:30 PM.

The cost for this tour is \$42.00 per person (lunch included) and is not part of the reunion registration fee.

#### Crewmen Located

### 1,739 Located

45 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.



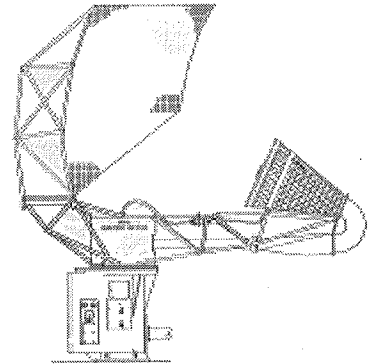
Painting of the USS Guardian AGR-1 (circa 1955) was painted and donated to YAGR'S for our exhibit. The painting was done by Ken Charon, Jr., son of Ken Charon (AGR-1 1954-56). We hope to have the painting on display in the very near future.

YAGR'S wishes to thank Ken for his most generous donation and we want him to know that it will greatly enhance our exhibit.

### Looking for information.

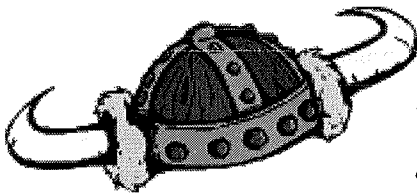
John P. Martin  
 112 Ferry RD  
 Flemington, NJ 08822  
 (908) 782-2512

is trying to get information of his father's years in the Navy. His father, Thomas F. Martin, served on the USS Guardian AGR-1 and the YR-65 in the early sixties. Thomas passed away in 1970 from cancer.



SPS-72 antenna (public)

## Spouses / Guests Reunion Functions

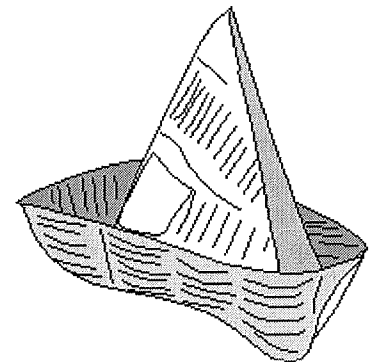


All spouses/guests are invited to join us at the Saturday morning breakfast and penny social. This is a great way for the spouses/guests to meet one another while at the reunion.

We will also have a hat contest at this year's reunion. The theme is "My home State". We will have a parade of States (just like the Miss America parade but without the bathing suits). Be sure your state is represented in the contest. It's all for fun; so even if you are not artistic you can have a good time. Who knows. You might even win.

As usual we ask each spouse/guest to bring an inexpensive item (in the \$5.00 range) to be raffled off. Bring something that you would like to win. There will be no additional cost to you. Raffle tickets will be provided free-of-charge. Hopefully you will win something. But even if you don't, you'll get to meet some great people.

We'll see you in Pensacola.



## Comments about the YAGR Exhibit

I received this letter from Jeff Cahill after the last YAGRGRAM went out. Jeff donated the signs that identify the RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO ship signs.

“Harry,  
I have to tell you that when I received my latest copy of the newsletter, I was SO IMPRESSED with the photos of the finished YAGR’S exhibit, I can’t begin to tell you.

“As a professional exhibit and sign designer/builder, I’m often skeptical about the “do it yourself” attempts that come across my desk and often times I’m called upon to help clean-up what some of those attempts have resulted in.

“Apparently, that wouldn’t be so with your endeavors. From what I can see in the black & white’s and the half-tone of those printed pages, you guys deserve a, “four-oh” !!

KUDO’S FROM ME TO YOU !!!

“I’m certainly looking forward to my visit next June so I can really enjoy it first hand.

“I hope you pass this on to the others who were involved because they all surely deserve to hear what a superb job they all did!!!!”

Jeff Cahill, Quality Signs & Designs  
Radarman, USS Guardian... 1964-65

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## A few more pictures from the Newport, RI reunion



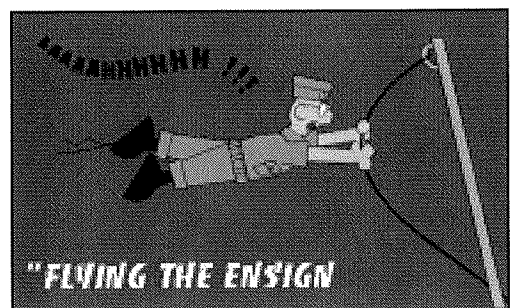
Don Batty (AGR-9) Vin Kneizys (AGR-12 & 13) Bob Campbell (AGR-12)



Don Baxter (AGR-15) Lee Doyel (AGR-15)



USS Vigil AGR-12 crewmen at the reunion.

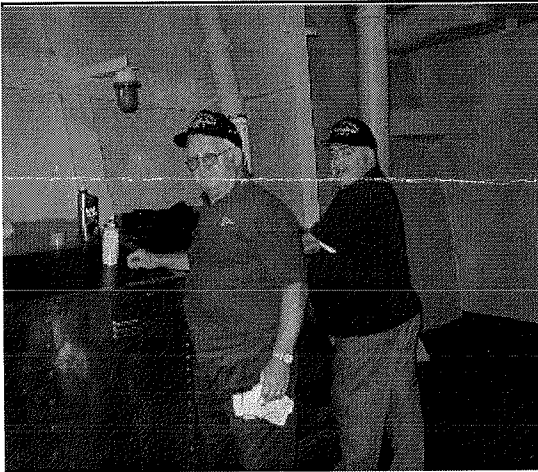


## YAGR'S Exhibit. Onboard the Battleship Massachusetts

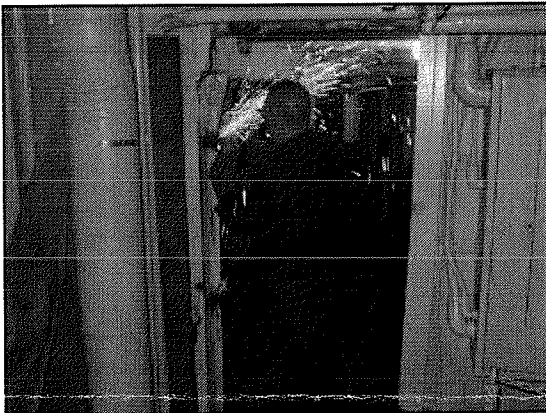
September 6, 7, 8, 2002 saw another group of YAGRMEN on board the Massachusetts. The first item we had to address was damage to one of the displays. Someone decided that they wanted the cigarette lighters that we have on display. First they tried to cut the 1/4 inch plexiglass; and when that didn't work, they heated up some kind of tool and tried to melt the plexiglass. Unfortunately that didn't work either. To sum things up we replaced the damaged 1/4 inch plexiglass with 1/2 inch plexiglass. This will give an extra measure of security to the display. As a note in regard to the cigarette lighters, the Watchman is the only ship that does not have a lighter on display.

While on board, we held a field day of our exhibit, did some prep work for the future display of the ship plaques, commissioning pennants and flags. We installed a door in the forward bulkhead of the exhibit. For those of you who do not know, we (YAGR'S) have volunteered our time to work on other projects on the battleship. At this time we are doing work in preparation of an exhibit that will be set up in the compartment forward of ours. This was why we installed the door.

**If you would like to volunteer at some time, please get in touch with me.**



Bill Hinman (AGR-4) and Tom Manning (AGR-4) holding field day



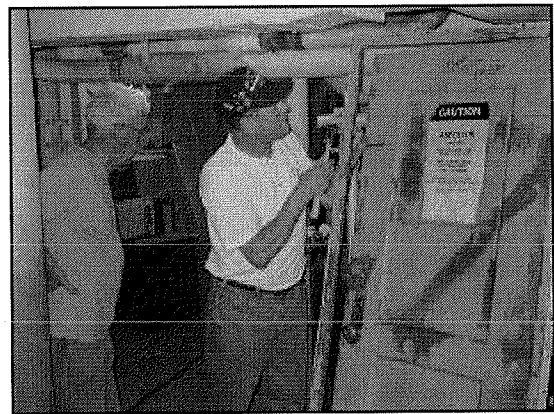
John Hemminger (AGR-2) grinding at new door opening



Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) welding new door



Tom Giardina (AGR-3) and Roland Cote (AGR-10) making repairs to lighter display



Al Nannini (AGR-15) and Don Batty (AGR-9) repair door frame

### Donation to YAGR'S exhibit.

We have received a \$5,000.00 grant from the Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation, Inc.. This grant was sent to the Battleship Massachusetts for restricted use on the YAGR'S exhibit. Roland Cote (AGR-10) and Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) had a meeting with the ship in regard to this grant. Right now the plan is to use this money for a video display showing information about the ships and will include oral interviews with former crewmen. Also we have received film and VCR tapes from various crewmen which we hope to edit and include into the video.

We will be setting up other meetings with the battleship's staff to finalize the video display. While this is a long-range project, we at know we have the funding for it. If you would like to make a donation to our ongoing building projects of the exhibit you can send your donations to me. Make your checks payable to YAGR'S.

# YAGR'S

## 8th Annual Reunion

Pensacola, FL

May 15, 16, 17, 2003

### Reunion Registration

\$70.00 Per Person (Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

\$80.00 Per Person (Non-Dues Paying Member And Spouse/Guest)

**Please Return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 1, 2003**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name Of Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Served On \_\_\_\_\_ Date On Board \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Ship Served On \_\_\_\_\_ Date On Board \_\_\_\_\_ Rate \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### YAGR'S Pre-Reunion Tour

Wednesday May 14, 2003

9:30 am to 3:30 pm (approx.)

Cost is \$42.00 per person

Names of people going on tour

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# Reunion Shirts

Only available to those going to the reunion!

At the San Diego reunion it was suggested that we have reunion shirts available at future reunions. We had them for sale at the Newport, RI reunion and they went over big.

The shirt being offered this year is a blue colored golf-style shirt with a 5-colored YAGR'S logo on the left breast. It also has Pensacola, FL 2003 on it. **We will not have these shirts for sale at the reunion.**

If you would like to order a shirt/shirts, please return the order form to me by April 1, 2003. The cost of these shirts is \$18.00 (XXL shirt add \$2.00.)

Please note the cost is more than last year because they will have to be shipped to Pensacola, FL. Last year we did not have any shipping cost.

The shirts will be given to you at the reunion.

| S | M | L | XL  | QTY. | EACH      | SUB-TOTAL  |
|---|---|---|-----|------|-----------|------------|
|   |   |   |     |      | X \$18.00 | = \$ _____ |
|   |   |   | XXL |      | X \$20.00 | = \$ _____ |
|   |   |   |     |      | TOTAL     | = \$ _____ |

## Registration for Reunion

Number Of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$70.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ITEM \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dues paying members and guest

Number Of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$80.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ITEM \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-dues paying members and guests

## Pre-reunion Tour

Number Of People Going On Tour \_\_\_\_\_ X \$42.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ITEM \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Golf Shirts

Total From Above Form \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ITEM \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For those going to the reunion only!!!!

TOTAL PAYMENT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to YAGRS

RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NO LATER THAN APRIL 1, 2003

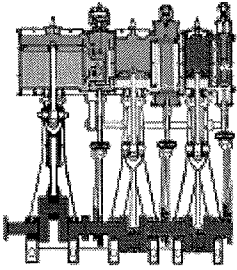


## FIFTEEN KNOT LIBERTY SHIP?

### Stratford Morss (AGR-11, 1960-62)

PROTECTOR (AGR-11) sailed from Davisville In November for picket duty that included Thanksgiving at sea. The ship to return to Davisville just before Christmas. With the exception of the April 1961 at-sea period on Station 18 that unexpectedly resulted in a trip to the Florida Straits and Key West, this was the longest trip that I remember during my tour on PROTECTOR, June 1960 to June 1962.

At sea more than thirty days when relieved, we were all anxious to get home. Getting to know the ship a little better as the seasons advanced, I thought we might do better with deeper propeller submergence and transferred any remaining fuel from the 39 and 68 double bottoms to the 109 deep tanks. This gave us about an eight foot trim by the stern.



I do not remember who relieved us, but I do remember Captain Noble's query as to "John's health" (the ship's engine), and was he up to the task of getting us home in good time for Christmas. When the word was passed the ship had been relieved, "Ahead Full", and 66 RPM was rung up. Soon the ship was doing the "66 Bounce". The count easily reached 76 RPM, design full power, and exceeded it.

We were rolling home and the weather was good, too good for the North Atlantic in mid-December. Captain Noble was watching every weather message on the board: a major coastal storm was on its way up the coast.

Captain Noble's thoughts are paraphrased as: "If we get caught in what's coming, we'll be held outside until things clear and it'll be very close to Christmas before we could get in. I want to get in before the storm hits and I'll go in after dark, if necessary." In the meanwhile, "John" was whirling away at a steady 80 plus RPM.

MMC Preston was having fun. He opined that "John" could do

better with careful additional, but not excessive, oiling. BTC Lewandowski (an extrovert from Brooklyn) was willing to join the fray. His relief, BTC Stinson, on his first trip, was more cautious. All the Chiefs watched over and tended the plant together. Nothing was going to go wrong.

Sunday afternoon, in Block Island Sound, the turns mounted to 88. It was a sunny afternoon. I alternated between the engine room and the Bridge. Pennington, QMSN, was Quartermaster of the Watch and was taking hourly fixes on the Loran A in the Chart House. At 1400 he told me "15-4 knots last hour" Incredible! At 1500, it was "15.2 knots"

Forty-two years later, did tidal currents have anything to do with this feat? Absolutely not! Billions of trilobites had sacrificed themselves on the Babcock and Wilcox altar of pure power.

Two single screw 1006 Class DEs were coming up fast on the starboard quarter. Just astern, they slowed. Captain Noble was senior to both DE commanding officers.

"Request permission to proceed on duty assigned"

"Permission Granted." The DEs speeded up then slowed ahead broad on the starboard bow and both blew boiler tubes all over us. Fifteen knot AGR, indeed!

Sunset was around 1615 on December 20. PROTECTOR passed Brenton Reef after dark and was tied up at Davisville about 2000. It had started to snow. Captain Noble was right, as he always was regarding weather matters. The other AGRs did not come in until just before Christmas.

It snowed 20 inches in Davisville that storm. As CDO, I was in the Wardroom Monday morning when a large shape filled the door. CW02 Paul Hager, my new Main Propulsion Assistant, reported on board for duty. The 1947 Pacific Fleet Heavy Weight Boxing Champion, Paul had been one of my instructors at Underwater Swimmers School three and a half years earlier. But that is another chapter of my tour in the AGR "Blue Ribband of the Atlantic" winner, PROTECTOR.

### 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. 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.

**June 1, 2002 - May 31, 2003**

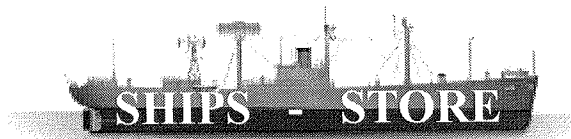
**YAGR'S Dues**

**Dues are being accepted for the above year**

Dues are \$17.00 the first year you pay your dues 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.

Make checks payable to YAGR'S



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.**



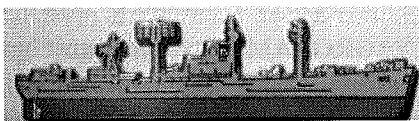
Orders for hats will be taken with this YAGRGRAM. Remember we will only be ordering hats twice a year. YAGR'S logo pin is a new larger size pin (1 inch) than the previous one sold.

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.

**Two new items are now available.** The first is a Harvard Square 7oz. denim shirt with double needle tailoring, button down collar, seven wood tone buttons and a left chest pocket. It has a silhouette of a picket ship with your ship's name and hull number embroidered on it.



The second item is a lapel/hat pin silhouette of a picket ship in color that is 1-1/2 inches long.



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

**Please Note:** All Orders must reach me by **November 5, 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.

| ITEM  | EACH                      |   | QUANTITY |              | SUB TOTAL |
|---|---------------------------|---|----------|--------------|-----------|
| HAT<br>HULL # _____   | \$19.00                   | X |          | =            |           |
| DENIM SHIRT<br>HULL # _____                                   | S, M,<br>L, XL<br>\$33.00 | X |          | =            |           |
| SIZE _____  | XXL<br>\$35.00            | X |          | =            |           |
| YAGR'S LOGO<br>HAT/LAPEL PIN                                  | \$4.50                    | X |          | =            |           |
| USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3<br>HAT/LAPEL PIN                         | \$4.50                    | X |          | =            |           |
| USS LOCATOR YAGR-6<br>HAT/LAPEL PIN                           | \$4.50                    | X |          | =            |           |
| SKYWATCHER AGR-3<br>LOCATOR YAGR-6<br>HAT/LAPEL PINS          | BOTH<br>PINS<br>\$8.00    | X |          | =            |           |
| PO1, PO2, PO3<br>CROW FOR HAT<br><br>PO _____                 | \$4.50                    | X |          | =            |           |
| HAT SPECIALTY DEVICE<br>SPECIFY DEVICE<br><br>_____           | \$4.75                    | X |          | =            |           |
| RADAR PICKET SHIP<br>PIN 1-1/2" LONG                          | \$4.50                    | X |          | =            |           |
| <b>MAKE CHECKS OUT TO<br/>YAGR'S<br/>SHIPPING IS INCLUDED</b> |                           |   |          |              |           |
|   |                           |   |          | <b>TOTAL</b> | \$ _____  |
| <b>YOUR NAME</b>  |                           |   |          |              |           |