



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #29

### Summer 2003

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## YAGR'S 8th Reunion *A Success !*

Our 8th reunion was well attended. We had 145 men and 110 spouses/guests who attended, for a total of 255 people. The 145 men represented 15 ships and the YR-65. Of the 145 men, 4 were former Commanding Officers. They are as follows:

Jim Donovan	USS Locator	AGR-6
Ray West	USS Interceptor	AGR-8
Frank Horn	USS Outpost	AGR-10
Al Reid	USS Tracer	AGR-15

For the early arrivals (quite a few came in on the Monday) the hotel pool and patio were put to good use. The gatherings that started on Monday would last well into the night as everyone got reacquainted.

On Wednesday, 74 of us boarded two buses for our pre-tour of the Pensacola area. We visited Fort Pickens, historic Pensacola village, the Veterans Memorial Park and had lunch at a Pensacola Beach restaurant.



Thursday, the official reunion got under way. The hospitality room as usual was a busy place. Also the hotel pool and patio area which were close to the hospitality room were good places to sit and enjoy the Florida sun.



Friday, we boarded 5 buses for a short trip to the Naval Air Museum which was the tour for this year's reunion, after which we proceeded to the Mustin Beach Officers Club for lunch.



On Saturday morning the men held their meeting while the spouses/guests held their breakfast, penny social, hat contest. This left some time on Saturday afternoon for some extra sightseeing. A lot of people found their way to the beaches. Not too many went in the water, but it was a nice change of pace for us Northerners coming down from the dreary weather we have had. Many others visited the sights in the Pensacola area.



Saturday morning spouses/guests at the breakfast and penny social.



Crewmen at their business meeting.



Once we got settled in for the banquet (this was quite a feat, as we had maxed out the banquet facilities) , enjoyed our meal. YAGR'S invited several active Naval personnel to join us as a way of showing our appreciation for what our military forces are going through now.



Photo by Don Cannady.

Pictured: Some of the Protector (AGR-11) crewmen who attended. The others must have been on the dance floor.



After dinner some people found a way to work off a few extra calories.

### 50/50 Winner

Congratulations to Rodney Wadhams (AGR-3) who was the lucky one who went home with a little extra in his pocket. His share of the 50/50 raffle came to \$1,329.50.

This year's raffle was the largest to date, with a total of \$2,659.00 worth of tickets sold. The other half of the raffle money is set aside for use on our exhibit. As you know, this is the single most source of funding we have for our exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts.



A thank you goes out to Lee and Nell Doyel (AGR-15) for their help at this year's reunion.



### Philadelphia, PA 9th YAGR'S reunion

Our 9th annual reunion will be held in Philadelphia, PA. The dates are not set at this time; but once they are, the information will be passed along to you.

There were only two cities nominated this year: Corpus Christi, TX and Philadelphia, PA.

I think the vote to hold the reunion in Philly was a complete surprise to many, including myself. But in talking with crewmen after the meeting, there appears to be a lot of interest in going to Philadelphia.

### 50 years

2005 will be the 50th anniversary of the first YAGR being commissioned. The ship was the USS Guardian (YAGR-1). Others commissioned that same year were the USS Lookout (YAGR-2), the USS Skywatcher (YAGR-3) and the USS Searcher (YAGR-4).

To commemorate this milestone, YAGR'S in conjunction with the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien will be working together to make our 10th reunion (another milestone) one that everyone will remember for a long time.

In case you haven't guessed it yet, we will be holding our 10th annual YAGR'S reunion in San Francisco, CA in 2005.

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# Spouses/Guests

The spouses/guests had a good time at the Saturday morning breakfast. Congratulations to Ann Reid for winning the hat contest. Her hat represented the great State of Georgia.

We had such good participation in this year's hat contest that we will have another hat contest in 2004. The theme will be "Patriotism." The prize will be given for the most original hat.

Start to plan now so you don't run out of time at the last minute.

### Cookbook

The YAGR'S cookbook has been completed. All spouses/guests who attended the Saturday morning breakfast received a copy. The comments were very positive. In addition, anyone who submitted a recipe was sent a copy of the book.

There are still a few books left. If you would like a copy, they are available while supplies last for \$5.00 each, the actual cost of printing and shipping. Please make checks payable to YAGR'S

See you in Philadelphia.



A few of the entries in the hat contest.

Photos: By Judi Johnson

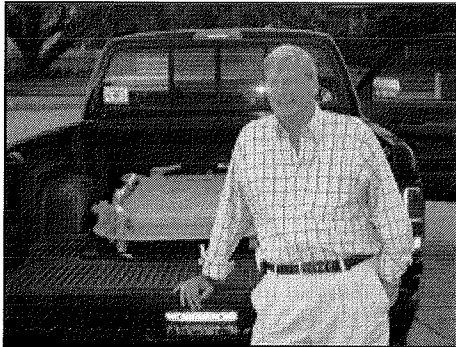


# YAGR'S Exhibit

## Onboard the Battleship Massachusetts

Fall River, MA

### Watertight Door



Thanks to Bob Walker (AGR-1, 1955-57) and Marine Hydraulics International Inc. of Portsmouth, VA for the donation of a watertight door for our exhibit on the ship.

A few months ago I got in touch with Bob and asked him if he could get us a watertight door for our radar room display; and like any good sailor, he was able to scrounge one for us. Not only did he get us the door, he got a brand new one to boot.

As soon as he told me he had the door, I got in touch with Roland Cote who volunteered the use of his truck to go and pick it up in Portsmouth, VA. Two days later we arrived back at the battleship in Fall River, MA and dropped the door off.

### Radar Room Display

The work crew reported on board for the June 20th, 21st and 22nd work weekend. The crew consisted of Roland Cote (AGR-10), Tom Giardina (AGR-3), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Tom Manning (AGR-4), Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) and Al Nannini (AGR-15).

The work has started in earnest on our mock-up of a radar room that has been in the works for some time. Roland and Harry did some preliminary work earlier in the week by cutting and drilling the angle iron brackets that would be needed to secure the new bulkheads to the existing ones and rekeyed the lock that was on the joiner door as the key for the lock was not available.

We did have a very productive weekend. Saturday we welded the brackets that support the bulkheads to the existing bulkheads and deck, erected both of the bulkheads of the radar room and installed the joiner door and the watertight door in same. Sunday we were able to put up the ceiling joist that will support the overhead. And even with all of this, we were off the ship by noon on the 22nd.

### On Going Work

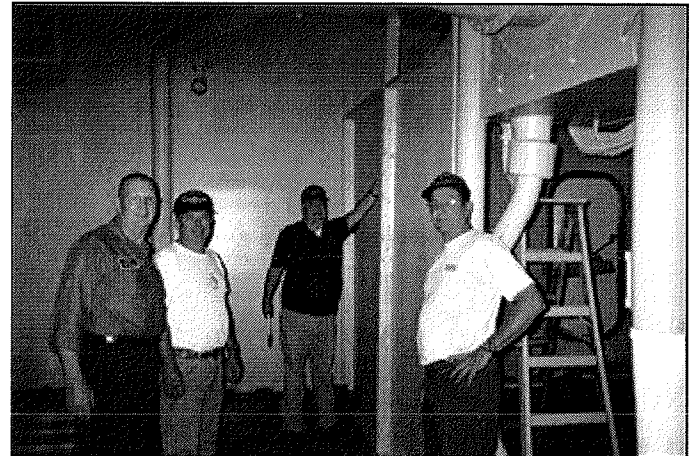
The past winter has completely destroyed our schedule of work. In the last YAGRGRAM we mentioned that it was just too cold to do anything, let alone finish carpentry work. We have a couple of projects that are in various stages of completion and they will be worked on as time and manpower allows. Right now our main focus is getting the radar room exhibit up and running.

The ship's curator has been notified that YAGR'S will not be able to work on any other ship projects (women in the military) that we have been helping out on until we are caught up on our own projects.

### Liberty Ship Model

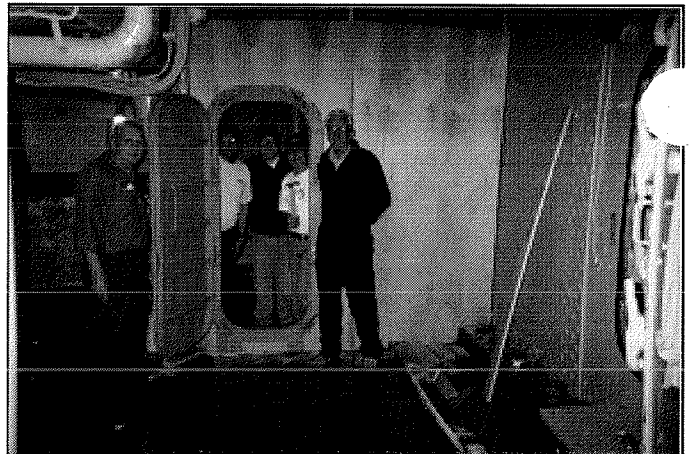
We have received a new model for use in our exhibit. Mike NeSmith (AGR-9, 1961-63) while at this year's reunion presented YAGR'S with a model of a standard Liberty Ship (EC2-S). While this was completely unexpected, we do have a good idea of how we will showcase it. In future YAGRGRAMS we will have pictures of it once it is on display.

First bulkhead panel going up.

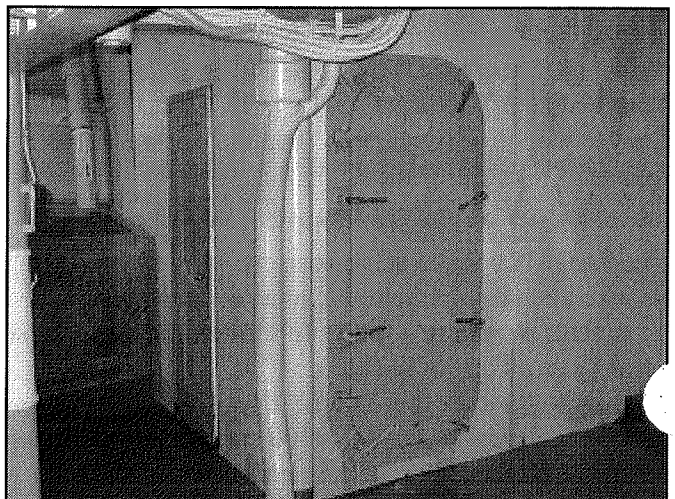


John Hemminger, Roland Cote, Tom Manning, Tom Giardina

WTD installed



Left to Right: John Henninger, Tom Giardina, Tom Manning, Roland Cote, Al Nannini



View of both bulkheads in place and WTD and joiner door installed

## RADAR PICKET SHIP AWARDS

At the reunion I was asked to republish the awards and dates for the ships that are eligible for awards.

### NAVY EXPEDITIONARY SERVICE MEDAL

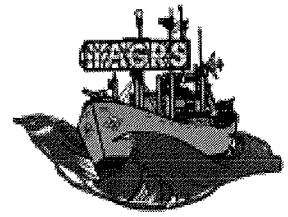
SHIP		START DATE	END DATE
USS GUARDIAN	AGR-1	9 JUNE 1961 18 JULY 1961	10 JUNE 1961 19 JULY 1961
USS LOOKOUT	AGR-2	30 JUNE 1961 8 AUGUST 1961	22 JULY 1961 NONE GIVEN
USS SKYWATCHER	AGR-3	15 MAY 1961 26 JUNE 1961 23 SEPTEMBER 1961 13 OCTOBER 1961	11 JUNE 1961 27 JUNE 1961 7 OCTOBER 1961 14 OCTOBER 1961
USS SEARCHER	AGR-4	20 APRIL 1961 27 MAY 1961	16 MAY 1961 28 MAY 1961
USS INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9	31 AUGUST 1961 13 OCTOBER 1961	25 SEPTEMBER 1961 14 OCTOBER 1961
USS OUTPOST	AGR-10	11 AUGUST 1961 14 SEPTEMBER 1961 1 OCTOBER 1961 24 OCTOBER 1961 21 JULY 1962	2 SEPTEMBER 1961 20 SEPTEMBER 1961 15 OCTOBER 1961 3 NOVEMBER 1961 23 OCTOBER 1962
USS PROTECTOR	AGR-11	11 APRIL 1961 8 MAY 1961	22 APRIL 1961 9 MAY 1961
USS VIGIL	AGR-12	21 JULY 1961 29 AUGUST 1961	13 AUGUST 1961 30 AUGUST 1961

### ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL

USS OUTPOST	AGR-10	29 OCTOBER 1962	15 DECEMBER 1962
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I was not able to find any award information for the RADRON ONE ships (West coast). This is the only information I have on the above listed ships. If you have any questions, the best thing to do is to get in touch with the Veterans Office in your State.

Thanks to Joe Zurine (AGR-10, 1957-59)  
 From the Providence, Journal  
 November 14, 1957



Engineering Space  
 USS Interceptor AGR-8  
 Photo's by John Schaffer  
 (AGR-8, 1959-62)



USS Outpost, an ocean radar station ship, approaches the destroyer Arcadia to take aboard the destroyer's doctor Sunday morning. The Outpost arrived at Newport yesterday with the doctor and the ill crewmen for whom the doctor had been summoned.

## Ship Arrives With Ill Sailor

The picket ship Outpost arrived in Newport yesterday afternoon with an ill sailor and a doctor who was transferred at sea to treat him.

The transfer was made on Sunday from the destroyer tender Arcadia in heavy seas which had prevented it on Saturday.

The sailor John Knott, damage controlman 3-c, was stricken with a heart attack. The Arcadia, returning from duty in the Mediterranean Sea, was asked to send the doctor, Lt. John Hart, aboard to pre-

pare the sailor for a transfer to the Arcadia and a quick trip to Newport.

When rough seas prevented the first transfer on Saturday, another attempt was made Sunday morning. Even that was difficult. Lt. Hart got drenched and the Arcadia lost some of its transfer lines and equipment while trying to recover the rig. Lt. Hart would not risk transferring the sailor back to the Arcadia because of his condition.

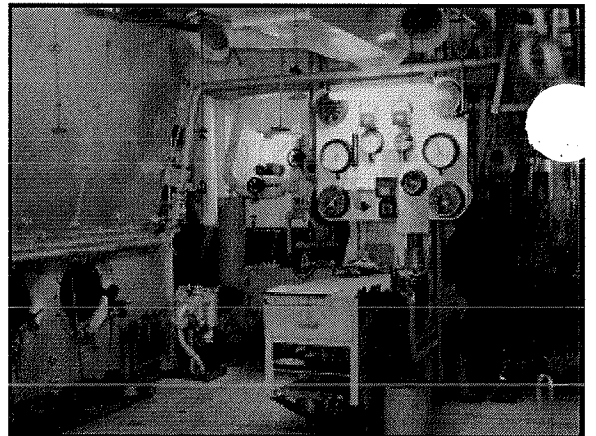
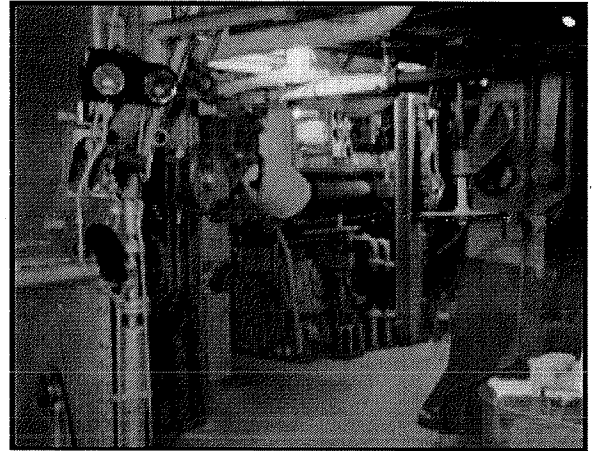
Later on Sunday, the Arcadia transferred Sailorman Chief L.

S. Riley from the radar picket ship Gardellian to help him get to his home to assist at the funeral of his father.

The two transfers delayed the Arcadia's arrival at Newport from Sunday morning until Monday noon, the Navy said.

When the Outpost arrived in Newport yesterday, Knott was taken to the Naval Hospital.

The Providence Journal  
 Thursday, November 14.



## Sea Stories Needed!!!

We are always looking for sea stories to publish in the YAGRAMS. If you feel you have something of interest, send it in.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to send in any articles that relate to your time spent on the radar picket ships. And, as a side benefit, you just might hear from some of your former shipmates who decide to get in touch with you and talk about old times.

## Help Wanted!

We would like to have a few more men who would like to volunteer to work on our exhibit.

We normally have 8 men who work on the ship on the weekends. Usually 4 of us will spend the whole weekend on board while the other 4 are only able to work on the Saturday.

For those of us who spend the whole weekend onboard, the ship puts us up in the Admiral's staff state rooms.

While most of our work is done on the weekends, we do go onboard on week days a few times a month.

So if you would like to put some time in, we can arrange for you to work during the week or weekends.

You do not have to be a skilled craftsman (although it would help if you are). What we need are men who would like to join us and help as needed so that we can complete our projects in a timely manner. As a note, we do not kill ourselves workwise. We know our limitations.

At this time we are planning work weekend sometime in late August.



### **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.



### **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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**June 1, 2003 - May 31, 2004**

**YAGR'S Dues**

**Dues are now due and 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 the date above your name on the mailing label on the envelope this YAGRGRAM came in.** 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

**Crewmen Located**

**1,841 Located**

54 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.





If you have placed an order for an item and you have not received it yet, please get in touch with



**New Item**  
8.5 oz classic military coffee cup with full color logo of YAGR'S

The YAGR'S logo, USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3, USS LOCATOR YAGR-6, USS PROTECTOR AGR-11 and USS TRACER AGR-15 ship emblem hat/lapel pins are in color and are 1 inch in diameter.

Harvard Square 7oz. long sleeve 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.

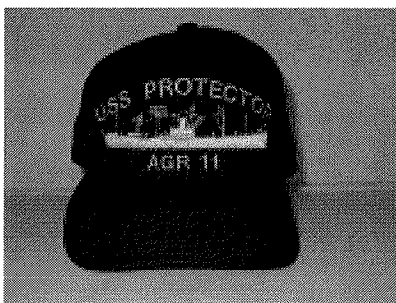
**Lapel/hat pin silhouette** of a picket ship is in color and is 1-1/2 inches long.

**Hat specialty devices** AG, BM, BT, DC, DK, GM, IC, EM, EN, ET, HM, \*HT, MM, MR, MS, QM, 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 **September 1, 2003**. 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.

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.**



ITEM	EACH		QUANTITY		SUB TOTAL
HAT HULL # _____	\$19.00	X		=	
DENIM SHIRT HULL # _____	S, M, L, XL \$33.00	X		=	
SIZE _____	XXL \$35.00	X		=	
YAGR'S LOGO HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.50	X		=	
USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.50	X		=	
USS LOCATOR YAGR-6 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.50	X		=	
USS PROTECTOR AGR-11 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.50	X		=	
USS TRACER AGR-15 HAT/LAPEL PIN	\$4.50	X		=	
SKYWATCHER AGR-3 LOCATOR YAGR-6 HAT/LAPEL PINS	BOTH PINS \$8.00	X		=	
PROTECTOR AGR-11 TRACER AGR-15 HAT/LAPEL PINS	BOTH PINS \$8.00	X		=	
RADAR PICKET SHIP PIN 1-1/2" LONG	\$4.50	X		=	
PO1, PO2, PO3 CROW FOR HAT  PO _____	\$4.50	X		=	
HAT SPECIALTY DEVICE SPECIFY DEVICE _____	\$4.75	X		=	
COFFEE CUP	\$15.00	X		=	
<b>MAKE CHECKS OUT TO YAGR'S SHIPPING IS INCLUDED</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>		\$ _____
<b>YOUR NAME</b>					