



Radarr Picket Ships YAGRGRAM #40

Spring 2006

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11th YAGR'S Reunion St. Louis, MO May 18, 19, 20, 2006



Please Note: We have had to call the Marriott hotel to arrange to have more rooms added to our room block. If you are planning to attend the reunion reserve your room now, as we might reach a point where rooms will no longer be available. If you have trouble reserving your room, give me (Harry Miller) a call (401) 724-7278.

Reunion Host Hotel Information.

Hotel : Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel
10700 Pear Tree Lane
St. Louis, MO 63134

Dates: May 18, 19, 20, 2005

Room Rate: \$79.00 per night. This rate is good for 3 nights before the reunion and 3 nights after the reunion as well.

Phone Number: 1 (800) 228-9290
or (314) 423-9700. When you call to make your reservations, inform them you are with the YAGR'S group.

The hotel has a free shuttle that will take you from the airport to the hotel. For those of you who have a car, **the parking is free for all registered hotel guests.**

If you wish, you may view the hotel's web page at:

<http://marriott.com/propertypage/STLAP>

Some general information on the hotel. The hotel is a short shuttle ride from the St. Louis Airport (Lambert) and it is about 35 minutes by light rail (Metro-Link) to downtown St. Louis and the Arch. If you decide to use the Metro-Link to get you to the Arch or downtown St. Louis, you pick up the Metro-Link at the airport. The hotel's shuttle will drop you off and pick you up by the regular scheduled shuttle service to the airport.

The hotel features two restaurants, a bar, indoor and outdoor pools and a fitness room. This is a large business hotel with 600 rooms and is a very busy location, so it is most important that you reserve your room early to insure that you will not be disappointed by not being able to book a room.



Important Information On The Pre-reunion Tour!

Wednesday May 17, 2006

Dixieland Dinner Cruise

6:30 pm to 10:15 pm

This year's YAGR'S pre-reunion tour will be a moonlight cruise on the Mississippi River. A bus will pick us up at the Marriott Hotel at 6:30 pm and take us to the riverboat landing to board a replica of a 19th century paddlewheeler. While onboard we will have an enjoyable evening with Dixieland music, dancing if the mood strikes you and if the body is willing, dinner (with choice of meal) and dramatic views of the St. Louis skyline. Returning back to the landing, our bus will be on hand for the return trip back to the hotel. The cost for the tour is \$57.00 per person. **Be advised, SIGN UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** I have been advised that due to the scheduling of the boats, we have a cut off of 147 people. At this time we have 102 people signed up. So, if you want to go on this tour, you will have to get your registration in as soon as possible. **When signing up for this tour, please make out a separate check made out to YAGRS.**

Information And Projected Reunion Schedule.

It appears that we will have quite a few first timers attending the reunion. So I decided to leave the Reunion schedule in as it was published in the last YAGRGRAM.

For those of you who have never attended a reunion and to refresh the memories of those of you who have, the following is the projected reunion schedule for this year's reunion.

Wednesday May 17, 2006: Optional Pre-reunion Tour, 6:30 PM to 10:15 PM (Approx.).

Thursday May 18, 2006: Hospitality Room Opens at 12 noon (Approx) to ??????.

Check in at reunion desk and pick up your folder with name tags and schedule of events with locations/ room names or numbers. The hospitality room has light snacks and beverages which are included in the reunion registration fee.

Friday May 19, 2006: 9 am to 3 PM (Approx.) Group Tour.

Tour of St. Louis and St. Charles, MO.

3:30 PM (Approx.) to ??????? Hospitality room open

Saturday May 20, 2006: 9:00 am to noon (Approx.) Breakfast, penny social, contest for the spouses/guests.

9:15 am to noon (Approx.) meeting for all former crewmen (coffee will be served).

Noon to 3 PM (Approx) Hospitality room open.

6 PM to 7 PM Cocktails (cash bar)

7 PM to ??? Farewell Banquet

Banquet Dress; Men: suit, sport jacket or uniform.

Women: Dress or suit.

The reunion registration fee: For dues paying members and their spouse/guest it is \$85.00 per person.

For those who have not paid their dues and their spouse/guest it is \$100.00 per person.

NOTE:

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

Spouses/Guests

Saturday May 20, 2006



Want something to do while your husband or friend is at the mens meeting? Do you want to have breakfast, get together with all the other spouses/guests or maybe even win a price? If so, join us for our breakfast/penny social raffle and tote bag decorating contest. All spouses/guests are invited to come on down. There is no cost to you as this function is included in the reunion registration fee. There is no cost for the raffle tickets either. We do ask that you bring an item (inexpensive) or make your own item to be raffled off. What should you bring? Bring something that you would like to win.



This year's theme "Be Happy" is reflected in our decorating contest. The item to be decorated this year is a tote bag. See what you can come up with to show us what makes you "Be Happy." Be original and most of all see if you can bring smiles to everyone's faces also. You will not win a million dollars, but you will win a good time and remember "Be Happy."

YAGR'S Exhibit On The Battleship Massachusetts Located in Fall River, MA.

Since the last YAGRGRAM has gone out we have not done much on our exhibit as far as building goes. Roland Cote (AGR-10), John Hemminger (AGR-2) and Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) have been onboard the ship doing routine maintenance in our exhibit area. But the real work has been spent on planning and laying out of future signs and displays. Roland and John are in the planning stage of a display that will encompass the existing peacoat lockers that are in our exhibit space. Meanwhile, Harry is putting together pictures of the 16 ships that will be set up in 4 panels and will be mounted on the forward bulkhead that we erected a while back. We also just picked up a sign that we had made that has some of the sea stories that have been published in the YAGRGRAMS. A frame will have to be built and plexiglass purchased before we can put it on display.

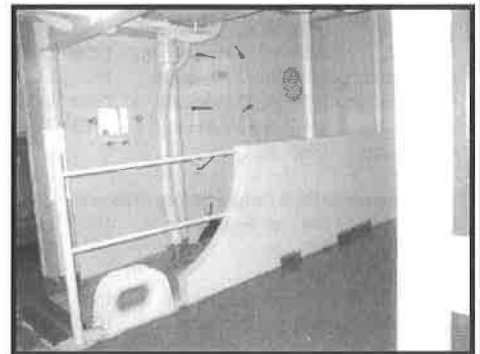
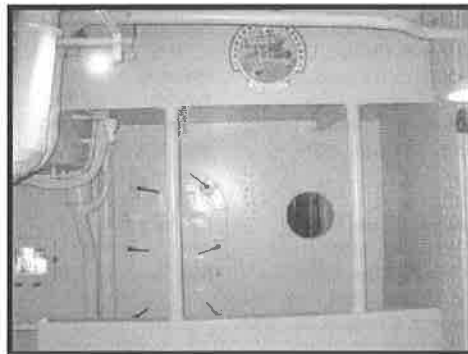


This past year has been very productive as far as the exhibit goes. We have completed the addition to the radar room, built frames and stanchions for two plotting boards, added lighting on the boards and installed them, completed the video about the radar picket ships, cleaned and mounted numerous pieces of equipment that are in the radar room. We also repainted the exterior of the radar room and the addition that was added to it.

To put these displays together we had to manufacture a lot of items due to unavailability of parts, the unacceptably high cost to buy or just as a matter of expedience. A case in point: all of the I beams, frames, rivet plates and rivets are made out of wood. This alone saved hundreds of dollars.

A final note in regard to our exhibit: in the last YAGRGRAM, I mistakenly forgot to add Lee Mowan (AGR-11) as part of the work crew. Lee came in from Indiana on the 17th of September. This is the second year Lee has managed to come and work on our exhibit.

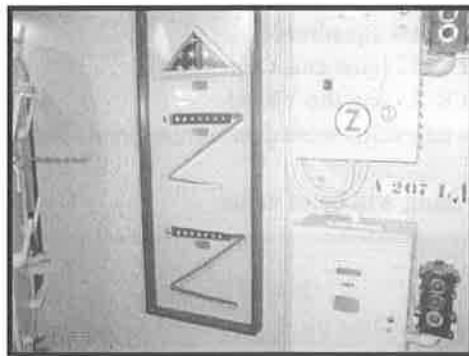
Pictures of our exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts.



The three pictures above show the exterior of the radar room with addition that was built to house the computer and monitor to show the video that was put together about the ships. The addition is the area with the monitor shown in the picture on the left. As you can see, we built this display to mimic the main deck area of a ship (not an AGR) to add interest for the Battleship's visitors.



is shows the after bulkhead with the model of the USS Guardian AGR-1 along with a ship's wheel that came off a Liberty Ship.



Display showing one Ship Ensign and two Commissioning Pennants.



Display showing plaques from nine ships and RADRON TWO.



This view looks from port to starboard and shows the signs for the RADRON ONE ships. The model of the USS Interpreter AGR-14 is in the foreground.



The view here, starboard to port, shows the signs for RADRON TWO. In the foreground you can see the display with the ships' cigarette lighters and ship shoulder patches.



The view here shows a partial view of the history of radar display which runs forward to aft.



YAGR'S Book.

The work on the book is moving along. The information we have gathered is being put together into book form. At this time we have over 75 pages with more to be added. Progress has been made in getting information on the radar, radio and engineering equipment. **We found out the 17 radar replaced the SR-b radar. At this time we have nothing on the SR-b. If you know anything about this radar, please let me know.**

We are still looking for information about:

(1) Ship Captains, names and dates. Can you fill in dates and names. **VERY IMPORTANT!!!!**

USS Lookout AGR-2 Commanding Officers

29 March, 1955	to 4 August, 1956	LCDR Theodore E. Kruger, USN
4 August, 1956	to 13 November, 1956	LCDR George W. Culbert, USN
13 November, 1956	to 12 November, 1957	LCDR Richard C. J. Cozad, USN
12 November, 1957	to 25 February, 1960	LCDR James T. Seago, USN
25 February, 1960	to 23 February, 1962	LCDR Timothy R. Mahoney, USN
23 February, 1962	to	LCDR James W. Farley, USN

USS Interceptor AGR-8 Commanding Officers

February 15, 1956	to	March 6, 1959	LCDR B. L. Hall, USN
March 6, 1959	to	July 12, 1960	LCDR Alexander, USN
July 12, 1960	to	August 15, 1962	LCDR J.V. Peters, USN
August 15, 1962	to	May 27, 1964	LCDR G. E. Robinson, USN
May 27, 1964	to	July 1, 1965	LCDR Louis J. Previati, Jr., USN
			LCDR Gordon R. West, USN

USS Scanner AGR-5 Commanding Officers

June 30, 1956	to	September, 1957	LCDR Henry H. Pruett, USN
September, 1957	to		LCDR H. A. Wilbur, USN
	to		LCDR Burton A. Shaw, USN
	to	January 28, 1964	LCDR J. B. Schafer, USN
January 28, 1964	to	July 21, 1965	LCDR Robert F. Campion, JR., USN

USS Outpost AGR-10 Commanding Officers

February 6, 1957	to		LCDR John L. Murphy, USN
	to	May 7, 1963	LCDR Frank R. Horn, USN
May 7, 1963	to		LCDR R. N. Hamblin, USN

USS Picket AGR-7 Commanding Officers

February 8, 1956	to		LCDR Joseph R. Antink, USN
	to	November 16, 1964	LCDR Robert E. Bodamer, USN
November 16, 1964	to		LCDR A.P. Jaeger, USN
			LCDR C.W. Jones, USN

- (2) History of RADRON ONE (west coast squadron)
- (3) History of RADRON TWO after 1962 (east coast squadron).
- (4) Information and pictures of the YR-23 and the YR-65.
- (5) Documents with dates showing when ships were decommissioned. There is a great deal of confusing data we have regarding dates.
- (6) Any information or pictures you think will be of value.

Mailing List

If you receive an information request form with the YAGRGRAM, please return it. This will allow me to keep your information up to date so that any former shipmate who wants to get in touch with you will have all available information to do so. When I receive the form from you, I will send you the list of former crewmen we have been in touch with from your ship/ships. As a reminder this information is not given out to anyone except your former shipmates.

1956 Ship Commissioning

1956 four Radar Picket Ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

January 21, 1956	USS Locator	AGR-6
January 30, 1956	USS Scanner	AGR-5
February 8, 1956	USS Picket	AGR-7
February 15, 1956	USS Interceptor	AGR-8



U.S.S. INTERCEPTOR (AGR-8)

LIBERTY SHIP: SS EDWARD W. BURTON

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	10 JULY 1945 (HULL #3147)
LAUNCHED:	12 SEPTEMBER 1945
SPONSORED BY:	MISS JUANITA M. KAYLOR
PLACED IN SERVICE:	28 SEPTEMBER 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	20 JUNE 1948

U.S.S. INTERCEPTOR (AGR-8)

CONVERTED:	29 JUNE 1955 AT CHARLESTON, SC
COMMISSIONED:	15 FEBRUARY 1956 AS YAGR-8 AT CHARLESTON, SC
HOMEPORT:	11 APRIL 1956 AT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
RECLASSIFIED:	28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-8
DECOMMISSIONED:	01 SEPTEMBER 1965
DISPOSITION:	16 FEBRUARY 1978 SOLD AS SCRAP FOR \$121,688.82

Interceptor, along with her sister ships of RADRON ONE, was responsible for increasing this country's warning time in case of an enemy attack by air by use of their powerful radar equipment.



Vin Kneizys (AGR - 13, 1958 - 1960)

While on picket station 11 May 1959, our ship, the Interdictor (AGR - 13) was notified that my mother in Massachusetts had suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. The Red Cross requested action on my family's request for Emergency Leave. Shortly after that, I was informed of my mother's subsequent death and funeral arrangements. Immediate action by our CO LCDR Joe Dordahl and others on the ship, working with RADRON One, COMWESTSEAFRONTIER and COMNAVFORWESTCONADRGN led to a transfer plan so that I could return to Massachusetts. A commercial ship, the Matson lines SS Hawaiian Planter enroute from Hawaii to San Francisco, was diverted to a rendezvous point with the Interdictor for the 12th. The Commander Naval Western Continental Air Defense Region authorized a departure from picket station up to 20 miles. Luckily, we were covering a southern picket station, the seas were slight and the weather ideal. A boat transfer was made around 1600 on the 12th. It was accomplished in 30 minutes without a hitch. Accommodations on the Hawaiian Planter were quite nice as they did have occasion to transport a small number of passengers including crew dependents.



SS Hawaiian Merchant, sister ship of the SS Hawaiian Planter.

The ship arrived in San Francisco on the 13th. A Red Cross representative met me at the pier and provided me with airline tickets for the flight to Boston. I arrived there on the 14th allowing me time to grieve with my family. This was an all hands effort and I am grateful to my shipmates and others who made a difficult time more bearable. The Navy did indeed take care of its own!

Jim Goodwin (XO AGR-11, 1962-64)

While on the staff at the Officers Candidate School, I received orders to report to the USS Protector AGR-11 as Executive Officer. One of the other staff members asked me which ship I was to report to. Using my saltiest Naval Lingo, I told him to just look for the ship where the crew was jumping overboard. Getting underway for my first picket, one of the crew decided he did not want to make another one, and promptly jumped overboard as we neared the exit to Newport harbor. You may imagine the comments I received on returning to port. I can't remember the young lad's name, but he was lucky to survive the winter water.

YAGR'S Dues

It is still not too late to send in your 5/31/05 to 6/1/06 year dues. If you have not paid your dues yet, please send them in as soon as possible. Dues are \$17.00 the first time you pay them and \$15.00 thereafter. Make checks payable to YAGRS.

If you have paid your dues, a date will be above your name on the mailing label on the envelope that this YAGRGRAM came in.

Remember your dues support YAGR'S.

Mailing List.

We have lost contact with 9 members who were receiving the YAGRGRAM. They forgot to update their new address with us. We realize that when you are making a move, getting out your new address can be a pain, but try to remember to get to YAGR'S.

Also once again we have made cuts to the mailing list. The list has to be trimmed every once in a while. The top candidates to be removed are those who have not sent back their information request form after repeated requests and those of you we have not heard from in a while.



The proceeds of items sold from the Ships Store help fund our exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts. The only exception is the ship emblem pins. These proceeds are used to purchase other ship emblem pins.

Hat/Lapel Pins.

All of the ships emblems are in color and are approx. 1" in diameter.

We have 3 new pins:

- YAGR DIVISION 21
- USS Outpost AGR-10
- USS Interdictor AGR-13



Hat Devices.

BM, BT, DC, DK, GM, EN, ET, HM, MM, NR, MS, QM, RD, SH, SK, SM, YN, are on hand, but in a limited quantity.

Denim Shirts.

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 radar picket ship with your ships name and hull number embroidered on it.



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

ITEM	EACH		QUANTITY		SUB TOTAL
HAT HULL # _____	\$19.50	X		=	
NOT AVAILABLE					
DENIM SHIRT					
HULL # _____	S,M, L,XL				
SIZE _____	\$33.50	X			
SIZE _____	XXL	X		=	
	\$35.50				
ALL HAT/LAPEL PINS LISTED BELOW ARE \$4.60 EACH OR ANY TWO FOR \$8.25					
YAGR'S LOGO		X		=	
RADRON ONE		X		=	
RADRON TWO		X		=	
YAGR DIVISION 21		X		=	
USS GUARDIAN AGR-1		X		=	
USS SKYWATCHER AGR3		X		=	
USS LOCATOR YAGR-6		X		=	
USS INTERCEPTOR AGR-8		X		=	
USS OUTPOST AGR-10		X		=	
USS PROTECTOR AGR-11		X		=	
USS INTERDICTOR AGR-13		X		=	
USS TRACER AGR-15		X		=	
COST FOR ITEMS BELOW ARE AS LISTED					
RADAR PICKET SHIP PIN 1-1/2" LONG	\$4.35	X		=	
PO1, PO2, PO3 CROW FOR HAT					
PO _____ WANTED	\$4.60	X		=	
HAT SPECIALITY DEVICE SPECIFY DEVICE _____	\$4.85	X		=	
COFFEE CUP WITH YAGR'S LOGO	\$15.50	X		=	
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YAGRS	TOTAL				
YOUR NAME					

Note: All orders must reach me by March 31, 2006. This is when all orders will be placed with our suppliers. It can take up to six weeks after that for you to receive your order.

YAGR'S
11th Annual Reunion
St. Louis, MO
May 18, 19, 20, 2006

Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 15, 2006.

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

NOTE:

If you are going on the pre-tour, make out a separate check to cover cost of tour and remember to make a meal selection for yourself and your spouse/guest.

Reunion Registration		St. Louis, MO May 18, 19, 20, 2006			Please Print
EXAMPLE	Cost per person \$85.00	X X	Number of People 4	= =	Sub Total \$340.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$85.00	x		=	\$
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$100.00	x		=	\$
Optional Tour					
Pre Reunion Tour	\$57.00	X		=	\$
Wednesday May 17, 2006 ALL MEALS COST THE SAME. CHECK SELECTION FOR EACH PERSON 6:30 pm to 10:15 pm					
Names of people going on tour	PRIME RIB	CHAMPAGNE CHICKEN	BAKED FISH		
Reunion Shirts					
\$18.00 each	Small	Medium	Large	X LARGE	
Number of each, times \$18.00					=\$
\$20.00 each				XX- Large	
Number of each, times \$20.00					=\$
				Total	\$