



Radare Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #42

Fall 2006

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

Washington, DC YAGR'S 12th Reunion

WOW !!! The interest in this year's reunion is amazing. Even before we had any details, I started receiving phone calls and e-mails looking for advance information.

The official reunion dates are May 31, June 1 and June 2, 2007. Also to afford everyone an opportunity to see more of the area, we have set up pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, May 29 and Wednesday May, 30.

The hotel for this year's reunion is:

The Westfields Marriott
14750 Conference Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

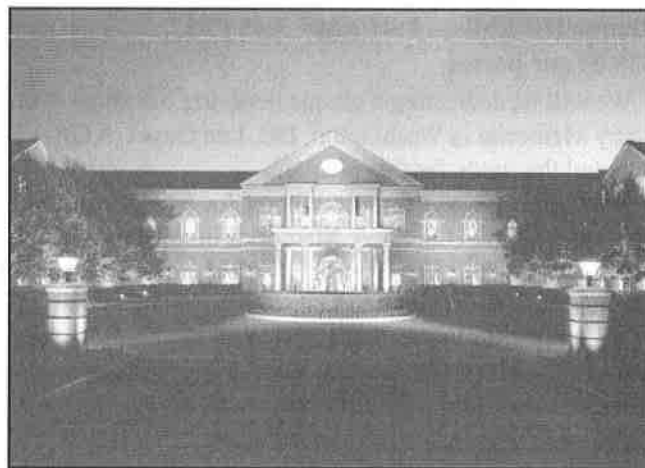
You may view the hotel on line at:
marriott.com/iadwf

To make your room reservations call
(800) 228-9290 or (703) 818-0300.

The room rate we negotiated is \$95.00 for a single or double room. This rate is good for May 28, 2007 to June 2, 2007, **and for the 3 days after June 2nd on a very limited availability.** Tell them you are with the YAGR'S group when making your room reservations to receive the special rate.

The hotel has a free shuttle that runs from the Dulles International Airport (this is the closest airport to the hotel). If you do not know, Washington, DC has two airports, Dulles and Reagan. Reagan is a distance from the Westfields Marriott. If at all possible get your flight into Dulles so that you will not have to pay for transportation from Reagan Airport to the hotel.

The reunion registration cost this year will be \$119.00 per person for those who have paid their dues and \$134.00 per person for those who have not paid their dues. You will notice registration cost is higher than in the past. We have done



Westfields Marriott

everything to keep the cost as low as possible, but Washington is a very popular tourist destination which drives up the cost. The bottom line is the hotel and tour companies will only give so much on cost.

The room rate we have is a very good deal for a 4 star hotel. The parking is free and, as I said above, there is a free shuttle to and from Dulles airport. The biggest increase to the reunion registration is for the tours and the food and banquet cost. The food and banquet cost in the DC area is higher than most parts of the country. We spent a lot of time negotiating these costs with the tour companies and the hotels we were looking at, and it was one of the factors in our decision on the hotel and tour company we finally picked. We feel we got the best deal we could considering the area and time of year.

Check out the new YAGR'S web page

www.yagrs.org

May and June is a great time of the year to be in D.C.. Unfortunately, everyone else thinks the same. I know I say this every year, but it is worth repeating. Reserve your room as soon as possible. This year doing so is more important than before. We have reserved a block of rooms and if more are needed, I will have to have as much time as possible to insure that we will be able to add rooms to our block.

Also if you plan to go to any of the pre-reunion tours, sign up early. We have reserved buses based on the number of people we think will be attending. If we see we are going to have a larger turnout than we thought, we can add more buses without any problems provided we know early enough. As some people can attest to, we had to turn people away from the tours last year because they failed to sign up early.



Pre-Reunion Tours

Tuesday, May 29, 2007

**Plaque Dedication, 9:45 AM - 3:45 PM
\$20.00 per person**

We will be dedicating a plaque honoring our ships at the US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. Lee Doyel (AGR-15) has donated the funds for this plaque.

Buses will pick us up at the hotel for transportation to the ceremony at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington. We expect to have some free time in DC after the dedication before the bus trip back to our hotel.

We will be limited to those who wish to attend by the number of bus seats. I have reserved two buses and these could be filled well before the cut off date; so if you want to attend the dedication, make sure you sign up early.

Wednesday, May 30, 2007

**Annapolis and the Naval Academy, 8:30 AM – 4:15 PM
\$65.00 per person**

Annapolis has been called “the most perfect example of a colonial town existing today in America.” Surprisingly little has changed since Maryland’s capital was laid out in 1695. In fact, Annapolis has the greatest concentration of 18th century architecture to be found anywhere in the United States.

Upon arrival in Annapolis, we will be greeted by a local costumed docent who will guide us through the cobblestone streets of this historic area, including the interior and exterior of the Maryland State House, the oldest state house in continuous legislative use and the exterior of the many 17th a 18th century buildings and mansions in the area. We continue to the United States Naval Academy, established in 1845 and covering more than 300 acres on the Severn River.

You will have time on your own for lunch and browsing throughout the waterfront area of the town where the elite of Annapolis dock their yachts and the many shops and boutiques located here.

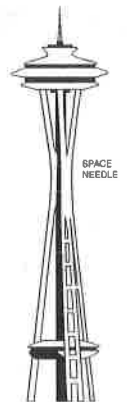
The cut off date for signing up for both of the tours is April 1, 2007.

This Is My Country

This year we will again have a hat contest. The theme is “This Is My Country.” Seeing that we will be in the Nation’s Capitol, this theme just fits the bill.

All the spouses/guests are invited to wear their hats to the breakfast/penny social that we hold on Saturday morning while the men are at their meeting. The breakfast is included in the reunion registration.

We ask that each spouse/guest brings an inexpensive item to be raffled off at the penny social.



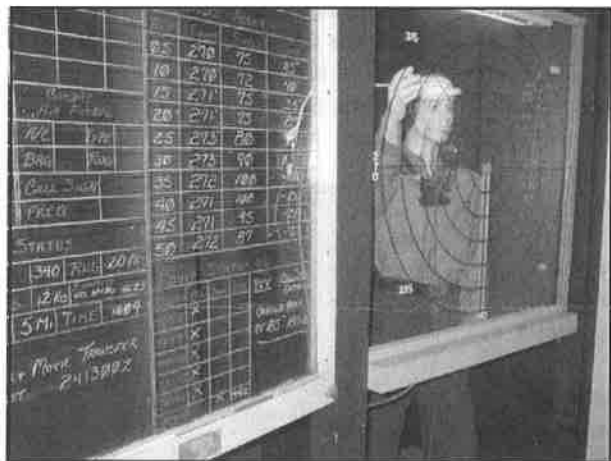
Battleship Massachusetts

Meet Hemminger

Hemminger is the permanent watch stander in our new radar room exhibit. When Roland Cote and Harry Miller were putting the mannequin together and putting the uniform on it that was donated by John Henninger (AGR-2), they decided the mannequin needed a name. Going over numerous possibilities with none of them sounding just right, it hit them while they were placing the mannequin behind the plotting board. There it was staring them right in the face. The name Hemminger was stenciled on the shirt. So now the mannequin (or Hemminger) has a name.



A picture taken from the outside of the radar room through the port hole.



Hemminger standing his watch.

We hope to add another mannequin to the display. This one will be for the watch officer. Frank McNamara (AGR-16) donated a uniform and hat to use for this purpose. I wonder what this one's name will be?

Roland Cote (AGR-10) is working on the four signs that we had made up to show the public what each ship looked like. After we received the signs we had to make the frames and install a lexan protective cover before they could be put on display on the panels that had been prepared earlier on the forward bulkhead of the YAGR'S exhibit.



Roland putting the finishing touches on one of the signs.



Mounting one of the four signs on the panels we had prepared earlier.



Signs shown mounted on the forward bulkhead of the YAGR'S exhibit.

New Display In The Works

Work has started on the new displays that will incorporate the existing peacoat lockers that are in our exhibit area. This display will show the various documents and items that we have collected to date.

Special Projects on the Battleship.

The St. Paul Project.

The Battleship's curator approached us about doing some work for the heavy cruiser USS St. Paul CA-73. The St. Paul was in the process of moving their exhibit off the USS Salem to the Battleship Massachusetts. In doing so, new display mountings would have to be built for the display items being moved onboard.



Jim Spiegel and Henry MacKay.



Jack Floyd and Jim Spiegel working on angle iron frame.



Henry MacKay and Roland Cote cutting plywood.

The work involved making up a double sided display board approx. 12 feet by 4 feet that would go between existing columns on the ship, the manufacture of a angle iron frame to be hinged and mounted to a new 4 inch pipe column and a 4 sided free standing unit to hang displays on.

The men who worked on this project were Roland Cote (AGR-10), Jack Floyd (AGR-11 (YR-65)), Henry MacKay (AGR-12), Harry Miller (AGR-11) (YR-65) and Jim Spiegel (AGR-12).



The Lionfish Project.

This past winter, a storm hit Fall River and in the process it moved the Destroyer Kennedy and the Submarine Lionfish apart. The result was that the brow that goes from the Kennedy to the Lionfish was moved enough so that it fell off the platform hitting the Lionfish and landing in the water.

As is our norm, we work on our exhibit almost every Wednesday, so we were there right after this happened. Capt. Jack Casey asked us if we would extend the platform out 2 feet so this would not happen again. Once we got the material onboard the following week, we made the platform extension and welded it to the existing platform.

As most of you know the New England winters are not the best time of the year to work outside, so the extra bracing needed to support the platform extension was put off.

This past June as part of a YAGR'S work weekend, we installed the angle iron bracing from underneath the new extended platform to the Lionfish.

The following men working on this project at various times were Roland Cote (AGR-10), Tom Giardina (AGR-3), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Henry MacKay (AGR-12), Harry Miller (AGR-11) (YR-65) and Jim Spiegel (AGR-12).



Henry MacKay and Harry Miller on float. Henry is holding one of the 4 support frames.



Jim Spiegel, Harry Miller and Henry MacKay standing on a float while installing support frames.



John Hemminger grinding channel iron for the platform

1957 Ship Commissionings

In 1957 four radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

January 16, 1957	USS Investigator AGR-9
February 6, 1957	USS Outpost AGR-10
February 20, 1957	USS Protector AGR-11
March 5, 1957	USS Vigil AGR-12



U.S.S. OUTPOST (AGR-10)

LIBERTY SHIP: SS FRANCIS J. O'GARA

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	14 APRIL 1945 (HULL #3140)
LAUNCHED:	08 JUNE 1945
SPONSORED BY:	UNKNOWN
PLACED IN SERVICE:	30 JUNE 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	04 JUNE 1946

U.S.S. OUTPOST (AGR-10)

CONVERTED:	22 MAY 1956 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
COMMISSIONED:	06 FEBRUARY 1957 AS YAGR-10 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
HOMEPORT:	30 MAY 1957 AT NEWPORT, RI
	01 OCTOBER 1957 AT DAVISVILLE, RI
RECLASSIFIED:	28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-10
DECOMMISSIONED:	01 JULY 1965
DISPOSITION:	23 NOVEMBER 1970 SOLD AS SCRAP

Outpost was assigned to RADRON TWO. Her mission while on station in the Atlantic Ocean was to locate, track and identify all aircraft

New YAGR'S Web Page.

www.yagrs.org

Frank Pulaski (AGR-4) has stepped up and taken on the duties of taking care of our web page. He has completely revamped the former web page. I think once you take a look at it, you will agree with me that he has done an outstanding job.

At this time the general format has been set up, and as time goes by we will be adding more pictures, information and items of interest.



YAGR'S Dues

If you have paid your dues and did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.

Dues for June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 are now due. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1). As a reminder, if this is the first time you are paying your dues, they are \$17.00. Otherwise, dues are \$15.00.



Returned Mail

After each mailing of the YAGRGRAM a number of them are returned by the post office as undeliverable.

If you will be moving or have just recently moved, make sure you get your new address and phone number to me



YAGR'S Book

We are still trying to locate information, pictures, etc. for possible inclusion in the YAGR'S book we are putting together.

If you have any information you think will be of use, please get it to me.

Needed are pictures of the YR-23 or YR-65



Bob Bayer (AGR-11, 1958-1960)

Fresh out of college, a 22 year old NROTC ensign, I looked forward to my first picket aboard the USS Protector (AGR-11) It was October of 1958.

During my first night at sea, my stomach began feeling uncomfortable and I was really embarrassed that I was so sick that I was unable to get out of my bunk to stand my first midwatch. What a great way to start my Navy tour of duty, I thought!

The next morning I felt worse and was still in pain. The Hospital Corpsman examined me and was fairly certain that it was a combination of seasickness and something that I had eaten the day before. However, rather than take a chance, the Captain decided that I needed to be transferred to an inbound ship. To this date, because I was "out of it", I cannot remember if I was transferred to the picket ship we relieved, or to a German freighter. (The latter still sticks in my mind). Given the choice of being highlined or a small boat, I opted for the latter. I recall a wild sea as I sat doubled over in pain while the small boat crashed through very high waves on the way to the other vessel.

The next day we arrived at the Davisville docks and I was taken via ambulance to the Quonset Point Hospital. Doctors were unsure of what my problem was. They determined that I needed immediate emergency exploratory surgery. However, since all of the O.R. suites were in use, they decided to transfer me to the Newport Naval Hospital.

I was placed back into an ambulance, then onto the ferry for the trip across Narragansett Bay. Halfway across, the ferry lost power and we drifted for about half an hour.

Finally, at Newport, doctors operated on me and determined that my appendix had ruptured that first night at sea and that life-threatening peritonitis had set in. I spent the next 30 days being treated and recovering in the hospital. I was finally released just in time to make Protector's next picket. Fortunately I did not have to withstand any derision from my shipmates relative to the "young ensign getting seasick on his first night at sea"!

YAGR'S 12th Annual Reunion

Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 20, 2007.

Exceptions are pre-reunion tours which are due by April 1, 2007.

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

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

Reunion Registration Washington, DC					Please Print
May 31 - June 2, 2007					
	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total
<i>EXAMPLE</i>	\$119.00	X	2	=	\$238.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$119.00	X		=	\$
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$134.00	X		=	\$
Optional Tours					Please Print
Dedication YAGR'S Plaque					
Tuesday May 29, 2007					
9:45 to 3:45					
Names of People going on tour					
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$20.00	X	1	=	\$
Pre Reunion Tour					
Annapolis, MD					
Wednesday May 30, 2007					
8:30 AM to 4:15 PM					
Names of people going on tour					
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$65.00	X	1	=	\$
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					\$

Note: All orders must reach me by November 20, 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.



Hat/Lapel Pins.

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

Hat Devices.

BM, BT, DC, DK, GM, EN, ET, HM, MM, MR, MS, QM, RD, SH, SK, SM, 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		=	
DENIM SHIRT HULL # _____ SIZE _____ SIZE _____	S,M, L,XL \$33.50 XXL \$35.50	X X		= =	
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 LOOKOUT AGR-2		X		=	
USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3		X		=	
USS SCANNER AGR-5		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					