



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #46

Fall 2007

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YAGR'S 13th Reunion.

Warwick, RI (Providence, RI)

May 18 to May 20, 2008

The Host Hotel will be the
Crowne Plaza At The Crossings
801 Greenwich Ave.

Warwick, RI
(401) 732-6000

The room rate is \$109.00 per night, which is good from May 13, 2008 to May 23, 2008.

When you make your room reservations, make sure you mention you are with YAGR'S.

The hotel has a free shuttle from the Providence airport to the hotel.

The projected reunion schedule is as follows

Friday May 16, 2008: pre-reunion tour to Mystic Seaport

Saturday May 17, 2008: pre-reunion tour to Boston, MA

Sunday May 18, 2008: day one of reunion
(registration and hospitality room open)

Monday May 19, 2008: Group Tour
Battleship Massachusetts
(Rededicate YAGR'S Exhibit)

Tuesday May 20, 2008:
Mens meeting
Spouses/Guests breakfast
Farewell Banquet

Reunion Registration.

The reunion registration fee for this year will be \$92.00 per person. This covers the hospitality room with light snacks and beverages, group tour with lunch (May 19, 2008), spouses/guests breakfast and farewell banquet.



We checked out various cities in the Newport, RI area and found just what we were looking for. For those of you who do not know the area, Warwick is just south of Providence (10 or 15 minutes), Newport is a short drive (45 minutes or so) and the Battleship Massachusetts is about a 30 minute drive. We did look at hotels in the Newport and the Boston areas, but none could give us what we wanted, because of very expensive room rates, available dates or hospitality room restrictions.

One of the first things you will notice for this year's reunion is that the days for the reunion have changed. The first day of the official reunion will be on a Sunday and we will close out the reunion on a Tuesday. Because of college graduations and various other functions, these were the only days that we were able to have the function rooms we needed. We once again will have two pre-reunion tours. One will be going to Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT and the other to Boston, MA.



Group Tour

Rededicate YAGR'S Exhibit

On The Battleship Massachusetts

Monday May 19, 2008

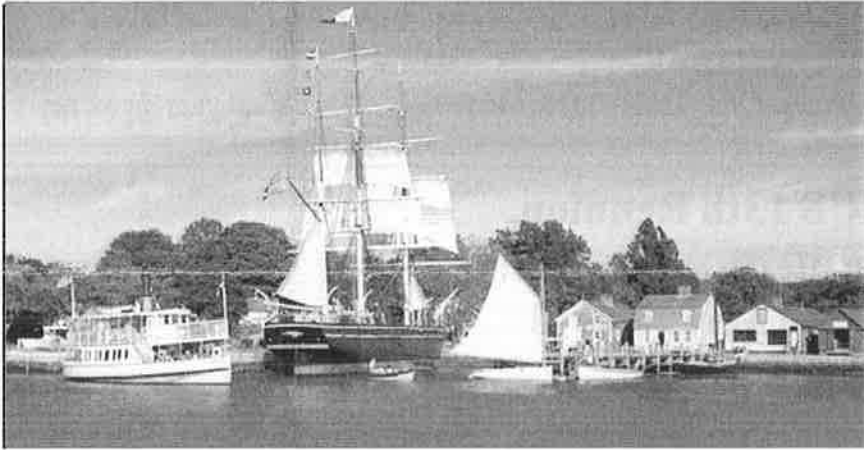
As indicated above we will be going onboard the Battleship Massachusetts for our group tour on Monday the 19th. Our plan is to rededicate our exhibit on the ship.

We have looked at what has to be done to complete the exhibit in time for our reunion and decided it is do-able.

For those of you who attended the original dedication, you will see almost a totally new exhibit from what you saw then. Those of you who have never had a chance to see the exhibit will see what we think is one of the best exhibits set up on any ship around.

If you plan to go on either of the pre-reunion tours, it is advised that you reserve your room by **February 4, 2008**. Due to the contract we have with the hotel, rooms for the pre-reunion dates might not be available at our negotiated room rate of \$109.00 if reserved after **February 4, 2008**.

**Pre-reunion Tour to Mystic Seaport. (lunch on your own)
Friday May 16, 2008, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**



Stroll the streets of an authentic 19th century seafaring village, comprised of more than 30 old New England trade shops and businesses. These aren't replications - they're real historic buildings, transported from locations around New England. And they're home to many bustling maritime trades, from shipsmiths and coopers to woodcarvers and riggers. Even the streets will transport you back in time, as you encounter historians, musicians and storytellers.

Even the most confirmed landlubbers will be transformed into savvy sea dogs after boarding one of Mystic Seaport's many historic vessels. From the world's last wooden whaleship, the

Charles W. Morgan, to the last example of early 20th-century New England fishing vessels, the L.A. Dunton, these vessels offer a glimpse of long-past seafaring days.

Witness the lost art of wooden shipbuilding in the Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard, an awe-inspiring opportunity to watch skilled craftspeople perform skills made nearly extinct by steel and fiberglass. From a visitors' gallery, the Shipyard offers a bird's eye view of carpenters' shops, an amazing 85-foot spar lathe, a rigging loft and a large, open area where the Museum vessels are brought indoors for repair.

We will have a shuttle service to Olde Mystik Village with a variety of specialty stores and restaurants. The shuttle from the Seaport to Olde Mystik Village will be made at 11:45 a.m. and at 12:45 p.m. There are restaurants at the Seaport and at Olde Mystik Village to enjoy lunch on your own. Also it is just a short walk to the Mystic Aquarium for those of you who are interested. There is an entrance fee for the aquarium which is not included in the tour.

Olde Mystik Village is abundant with picturesque settings of flowers, trees, duck ponds and a waterwheel. The shopkeepers in the Village pride themselves on offering you some of the most interesting and unique items from all over the world. A world apart from the ordinary mall experience, Olde Mystik Village, with its unique collection of shoppes has become a favorite shopping center for local residents as well as for Mystic's many visitors.

For those searching for that "perfect something" or for those who want a lasting memento of their Mystic trip, a great selection of artisan hand crafted or brand-name gifts is always available at competitive prices.



**Pre-reunion Tour To Boston, MA (lunch on your own)
Saturday May 17, 2008, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Boston, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of the American Revolution" abounds in history. On a driving tour of the city, see the Old State House, Beacon Hill, the U.S.S. Constitution, Harvard University and other highlights. After the driving tour there will be free time for lunch and shopping at the world famous Quincy Market.

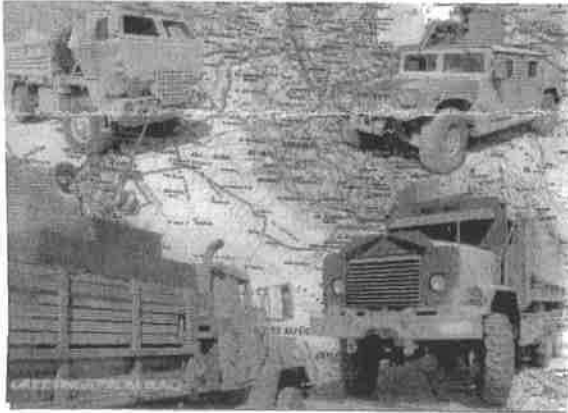
Spouses and Guests

The theme for this year's hat contest is "~~Wild and Crazy~~". You can really let your imagination run wild with this one. And I hope a lot of you are Wild and Crazy enough to participate.

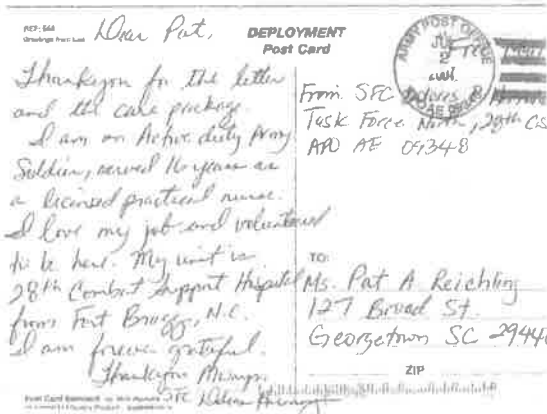
We will also have a raffle again at the Tuesday morning breakfast. We ask all the spouses/guests to bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. Bring something you would like to win and you can't go wrong. Are you into crafts? Handmade items are always among the favorites.

See you all in Rhode Island!

At the Washington reunion Pat Reichling collected toiletry items to be sent off to the troops serving in Iraq. Pat sent me an e-mail and a copy of the postcard she received thanking her for the items.



Dolores Hernandez



Dear Harry,

I sent a copy of the postcard from Iraq in the previous email. Sorry it is not straight, but I am not very proficient at it.

When I sent the box of shampoo, etc. I enclosed a note that stated it came from a group of Navy veterans and a little background about the group. The reply the nurse sent didn't mention that, however. They work long days, with sometimes only one day off per month. So she may have overlooked that fact when she wrote.

If anyone would like to send a care package to Iraq, or to the military hospital at Landstuhl, Germany, I would be happy to get out the information to them as to the best way to send it. Bill and I try to send out at least one care package per month, with contents capable of outfitting one soldier.

When the wounded come in from the field, they often only have the bloody clothes on their back. The hospital can only provide them with one of those drafty, open back hospital gowns. (We all know how uncomfortable they are.) Therefore, a clean tee shirt, socks, and boxers are much appreciated.

Hope everything is well with you. You can reach Pat at PARreichling@aol.com if you would like information on how and where to send a care package. Or If anyone wants to adopt a soldier or Marine in the combat area, you may contact www.soldiersangels.org

Visit YAGR'S Web Page.

www.yagrs.org

Webmaster

Frank Pulaski (AGR-4)



YAGR'S Dues Now \$17.00 Per Year

At the 2007 reunion meeting it was voted to increase dues to \$17.00 per year. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1).

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.



Frank Pulaski (AGR-4, 1958-61)

This is a true story that occurred in 1961. The Searcher was at a liberty port in Key West Florida and the crew enjoyed swimming in the warm waters and taking liberty in Key West. This really helped us to put up with the boredom of picket duty.

Two of us in the ET shack were scheduled to be discharged while the ship was in Key West, Bill Borthwick (everyone had a nickname and we called him Charlie) and myself (Ski). We had to be in Davisville, RI within two days of each other to be discharged. Of course, back then we never had much money and it was safe and easy for a sailor in uniform to hitchhike. Charlie departed two days before I did, alone, hitching rides back to Davisville. I don't know what path he took, but I left hitching also and wound up at an Air Force Base in Georgia...can't remember the name.

My goal was to get to the base and hitch a flight up north. All I remember about the place was that those "Flyboys" lived pretty good. I was given a berth to spend the night and it was a room with a double bunk and was very comfortable. The galley was open around the clock and the food was good. The next day I did catch a hop on a two engine "Puddle Jumper" that was headed to an Air Force base in New Jersey. I remember sitting on storage

crates, as this was some sort of a cargo plane. The Captain allowed me to sit in the cockpit for a while and actually handed the controls to me. I had only ever been in a plane once before and certainly never at the controls. This was fun.

We landed in New Jersey and with my sea bag over my shoulder I headed out to the highway to start hitching a ride to Davisville. It didn't take long and I was soon in a car that, with luck, was headed to Rhode Island. Not too far down the road I spotted a sailor in the distance who was also hitching a ride with a sea bag. As I got close, I couldn't believe my eyes....it was Charlie. Of course we pulled over and completed our ride to the base at Davisville together. I wonder what the odds would have been to have this happen since we had never discussed which route we were going to take to get back to Davisville.

Sea Stories

If you have any sea stories you think will be of interest, send them in for possible publication.



YAGR'S Exhibit Battleship Massachusetts

Roland, John and Jim at peacoat locker display.



With YAGR'S 13th reunion and the rededication of our exhibit in mind, we went over what had to be done to get the exhibit in order. With this list in hand we held a couple of work weekends. The first one was a mini work weekend (May 17 to May 19). Roland Cote (AGR-10), Jack Floyd (AGR-11, YR-65), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) and Jim Spiegel (AGR-12) spent time getting a few items done. We finished the peacoat locker display lights. Also, due to the height of the peacoat locker and the fact that a lot of the visitors to the ship are kids, we made and installed a step in front

of the display so that the kids would be able to see inside the display. All that has to be done now is to get the items together that have to be set up in the locker to call this project done. We finally got the painting of the USS Guardian AGR-1 on display after we finished the display case and cut the plexiglass for it. The painting's artist is the son of Ken Charon.



Jim cleaning plexiglass on Guardian painting.

3"50 Projectiles

Two 3 inch 50 dummy shells were donated to us (anonymously) for use in our exhibit. We are working on a plan on how best to use them. Information will be posted at a later date once we work out the details.

Picture shows Roland Cote (AGR-10) and John Hemminger (AGR-2) handling projectiles.



Our second work period had the following men onboard the ship. Next to their names is where they traveled from.

Tim Adams (AGR-10, AGR-11) Minnesota
Don Batty (AGR-9) Connecticut
Roland Cote (AGR-10) Massachusetts
John Hemminger (AGR-2) Rhode Island
Mike Liska (AGR-11) Wisconsin

Henry MacKay (AGR-12) New York
Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) Rhode Island
Lee Mowan (AGR-11) Indiana
Mike Smith (AGR-12) Michigan
Jim Spiegel (AGR-12) New York

We started arriving on the Battleship on the 12th of September and we finished up on the 16th. While all of the guys were not on the ship for all the five days, (we had a couple who could only spend a day or two) it was amazing the amount of work we got done. Splitting up into work crews, we were able to work not only on our (YAGR'S) exhibit, we were also able to get quite a bit done on the special project ("Women Protecting US") we have been working on.



Lee Mowan working on standing light



Lee Mowan, Jim Spiegel, Roland Cote, Henry MacKay, Harry Miller

Thanks to Lee, we can now say that "Hemminger," our mannequin in the radar room who is on watch 24/7, now has his coffee pot in working order. While working in the radar room, he also did away with an extension cord and replaced it with armor cable. Now everything is up to Navy specs. He also moved a couple of unused standing lights from a compartment and installed them in our exhibit space.

Tim and Mike Liska made up a display base that will support a model of a liberty ship that was donated to us by Mike NeSmith (AGR-9) way back at the Pensacola reunion. They also welded some brackets to support display panels.

The rest of us were busy working in the "Women Protecting US exhibit." This is where we used all of our talents in painting, rough and finish carpentry and cutting and welding. The work that was accomplished this weekend moved this project along a lot quicker than anyone ever expected.

We are looking for some help.

With the rededication of our exhibit coming up this May, we can use some extra help in getting the space shipshape. You do not need any special skills. All you need is the desire to help.

Contact me (Harry Miller) at (401) 724-7278 or yagr@cox.net. I am sure we can work something out to arrange a time and date for you.

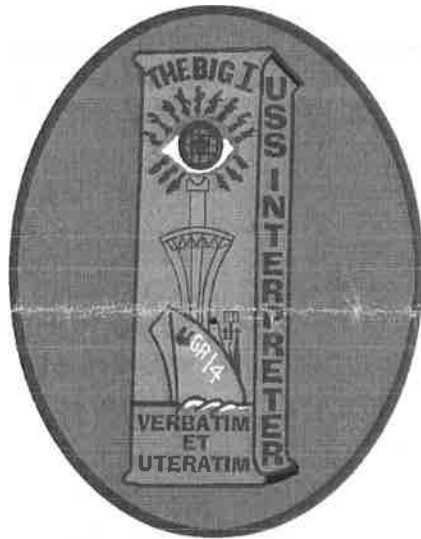


Mike Liska and Don Batty prime painting a partition

1958 Ship Commissionings

In 1958 three radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

April 7, 1958	USS Interdictor AGR-13
September 28, 1958	USS Interpreter AGR-14
October 16, 1958	USS Tracer AGR-15



U.S.S. INTERPRETER (AGR-14)

LIBERTY SHIP: SS DUDLEY H. THOMAS

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	05 JANUARY 1945 (HULL #2341)
LAUNCHED:	08 FEBRUARY 1945
SPONSORED BY:	MISS CARRIE CORBITT
PLACED IN SERVICE:	21 FEBRUARY 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	04 NOVEMBER 1947

U.S.S. INTERPRETER (AGR-14)

CONVERTED:	05 JUNE 1957 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
COMMISSIONED:	28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-14 AT PHILADELPHIA, PA
HOMEPORT:	15 FEBRUARY 1959 AT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
DECOMMISSIONED:	01 JULY 1965
DISPOSITION:	03 NOVEMBER 1974 SOLD AS SCRAP FOR \$130,178.00

Interpreter was assigned to RADRON ONE. While on station, using her long range radar she would detect and track all aircraft approaching the west coast of the United States.