



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #48

SPRING 2008

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

YAGR'S 13th Reunion

Warwick, RI

This will be the last YAGRGRAM before the reunion, which in turn will be your last reminder to sign up for the reunion and pre-reunion functions.

Please note that this year the days of the reunion are from Sunday, May 18, to Tuesday, May 20, 2008.

Our pre-reunion tours will be held on Friday the 16th and Saturday the 17th of May. The general format will stay the same (see projected reunion schedule).

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 tell them you are with YAGR'S.

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

This hotel is a very busy hotel and may sell out. Please make your reservations now.

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.

Group Tour, Rededicate YAGR'S Exhibit

Battleship Massachusetts

Monday, May 19, 2008

A special note for the spouses/guests, the Battleship can be a little difficult to get around on. With ladders (stairs) and steel decks, the footing isn't always the best. It is suggested that you wear comfortable shoes and the women might want to wear slacks. As for the men, if you have a uniform, you might want to consider wearing it to the rededication of our exhibit.

We will board our bus at the hotel for the trip to the Battleship Massachusetts to rededicate our exhibit. The first item on the agenda is to hold a memorial service on the Battleship's fantail, after which we will proceed to our exhibit to unveil the new YAGR'S exhibit. While onboard the ship, we will have lunch in the Battleship's wardroom.

The Radar Room in the YAGR'S Exhibit.



Questions answered.

Hospitality Room: Has soda, juices, beer, various liquor, and light snacks, chips, pretzel, etc., which are included in your reunion registration fee.

What to wear: Casual clothes are the norm for all tours and hospitality room.

Tuesday night Banquet: The cost of this is also included in your reunion registration fee. The dress for the evening is a suit or sport jacket for the men (some of the men will wear their uniforms), the women a dress or suit.

Can we bring family members or friends to the reunion: Yes, family and friends are most welcome.



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



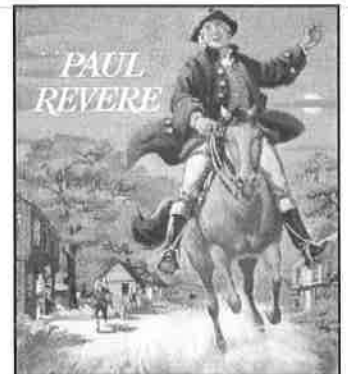
Explore American maritime history firsthand as you climb aboard historic tall ships, stroll through a recreated 19th-century coastal village or watch a working preservation shipyard in action. For those of you who would like to do a little shopping, we will have a shuttle service from Mystic Seaport to Olde Mystik Village. There are restaurants at the Seaport and at Olde Mystik Village to enjoy lunch on your own.

Olde Mystik Village has a unique collection of shops and has become a favorite shopping center for local residents as well as for Mystic's many visitors.

Also, it is just a short walk from the village 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.

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.



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.**

For Your Information

If you received an information request form along with this YAGRGRAM, **PLEASE RETURN IT!!!**

We are in the process of cutting our mailing list to help keep costs down. If it is not returned, I will assume you no longer wish to receive the YAGRGRAM.

Spouses and Guests



The men are at their Tuesday morning meeting, so what do you do? Join us for our Spouses/Guests breakfast, raffle and hat contest. While it is not breakfast in bed, it is the next best thing. Sit down and enjoy your breakfast while sitting with friends and just relaxing with nothing to worry about except what gift you want to try to win.

As this year's theme, "Wild and Crazy" implies, just have a good time. You are invited to decorate a hat to reflect what your idea of "Wild and Crazy" is.

While the cost of the function is included in the reunion registration, we do 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.



Setting up the gift table at the Washington, DC reunion.

2010 Reunion Cruise?

A little more information for you to help you decide if we want to go on a cruise for our 15th reunion.

At this time the cost for a cruise that would be held in 2010 is not available. I got some information on the cost for a 5 day cruise that would depart in November of 2008 from Miami, FL. This should give you a good idea on what your cost by comparing it to what you will be spending (hotel, food, extra sightseeing, etc.) to come to this year's reunion.

A few things to keep in mind:

All food, entertainment and tour (ports of call will be the tour) costs are included in the cruise cost.

The registration fee will be greatly reduced.

The following is a Nov.9, 2008 sailing and prices. All pricing is cruise only and includes port fees, taxes, fuel surcharges and government fees.

Norwegian Cruise Line

Ship: Norwegian Jewel

Length of Cruise: 5 Days

Interior cabins from \$510 p.p.

Oceanview cabins from \$622 p.p.

Balcony cabins from \$755 p.p.

Itinerary

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
Sun	Miami		4:00PM
Mon	At Sea		
Tues	Grand Cayman	8:00AM	4:00 PM
Wed	Cozumel	10:AM	7:00 PM
Thur	At Sea		
Fri	Miami	8:00 AM	

YAGR'S BOOK



The proofreading of the book is moving along. It has proved to be a slow and tedious task. Also, it is being slowed down by new or updated information becoming available. At this time I cannot even venture a guess as to when it might be done.

In going over the contents of the book, I have found that it is lacking information on the USS Picket AGR-7. If anyone has any information on the Picket's operations, please get it to me right away.

If all goes well I will have a few copies on hand at the reunion. They might not be completely edited, but it will give everyone a good idea of the final product.



Sea Stories

We need more sea stories to put in the YAGRGRAM'S.
If you have any sea stories you think will be of interest, send them in for possible publication.

Kenneth Cooley (AGR-16, 1962-64)

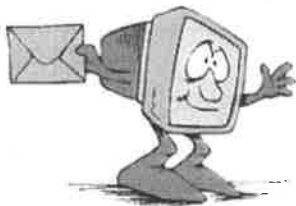
I served on USS Watchman (AGR-16) as Engineering Officer for 2 years. On one of our Pacific patrols we were slowly steaming across our assigned station during some very nice sunny weather. It was noon and the off-watch officers were in the Wardroom eating lunch. On Watchman (and I think the same was true for all of the AGR's), the Wardroom table sat parallel with the forward bulkhead, which had uniformly spaced portholes, with curtains, facing the bow. Those of us sitting on the after side of the table faced the portholes (bow), the Captain, CDR Kent Lawson, sat at the head of the table and LT Jim Jefferis (XO and Navigator) sat at the Captain's right, with his back to the bow and portholes. The ship was on a generally northerly heading with LTJG Glen Krawiec serving as OOD.

As we were having lunch the sun began to shine through the portholes and, after a while, was enough to blind those of us sitting on the after side of the table facing the bow. The XO asked the Steward to pull the drapes to block the sunlight. Just as it dawned on him that the sun was shining over the bow and we were supposed to be heading north, the Messenger of the Watch entered the Wardroom and addressed the Captain with "Good afternoon sir, the Officer of the Watch sends his respects and would like to inform the Captain that the sun has just shifted 90 degrees." The timing and message was so funny that even the XO had to laugh as we all jumped up and headed for the

bridge. Once there we found that the 400 Cycle MG Set power to the Gyro had been lost, and as the Gyro slowed down, it started drifting. The Steersman followed the Gyro and slowly turned the ship over a period of time until it suddenly became apparent that the sun wasn't supposed to be shining from the North. I don't know what the Quartermaster of the Watch said to the XO, since he had been duly entering the Gyro vs Magnetic Compass headings into the Log each half hour, and they had not changed. The word "Gundecking" comes to mind.

I got my IC Man and we found that earlier in the morning the Quartermasters had been chipping the deck on the Flying Bridge just above the Controller connecting the MG Set to the Gyro. The vibration had caused the breaker to open, cutting power to the Gyro and allowing it to slow down and drift. We also found that the Gyro Alarm was hooked into the circuit between the generator and the MG Set on the assumption (I guess) that a loss of power from the generator was the normal problem that would cause a Gyro failure. Since there was no loss of power to the MG Set, the Gyro Alarm had not gone off. We corrected this by moving the alarm point to the Gyro side of the Controller. This apparently worked; as for the rest of the time I was on Watchman we never had another instance of the sun shifting 90 degrees during a watch.

e-mail



We all know e-mail can be a big problem with all kinds of junk mail, viruses and who knows what else going around on the internet.

So, to try to combat these problems on my end, I do not open e-mail sent to me unless in the subject area it is identified as YAGR'S or with a picket ship's name. In sending me e-mail, please include one of the above as the subject.

YAGR'S Dues

Now \$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.





YAGR'S Exhibit

Battleship Massachusetts

Work has resumed on our display for the liberty ship model and the placing of items in the peacoat locker display case. The actual frame for the model was built a while back on one of our work weekends. John Hemminger (AGR-2) and Dave Terry (AGR-10) are cutting and fitting the side plywood panels that will be screwed to the sides of the angle iron frame that will support the model.

Meanwhile, Roland Cote (AGR-10) and Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) started placing items into the locker. The problem here is trying to figure the best way to arrange the items that will be displayed.



Dave and John cutting plywood panels.



John and Dave working on a side panel.



Roland with a model of a WV-2 (EC-121) "Willie Victor"

1959 Ship Commissionings

In 1959 one radar picket ships was commissioned.
January 5, 1959 USS Watchman AGR-16



U.S.S. WATCHMAN (AGR-16)

LIBERTY SHIP: SS VERNON S. HOOD

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	17 JANUARY 1945 (HULL #2343)
LAUNCHED:	20 FEBRUARY 1945
SPONSORED BY:	MRS. INEZ BULIFANT
PLACED IN SERVICE:	07 MARCH 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	14 JUNE 1946

U.S.S. WATCHMAN (AGR-16)

CONVERTED:	02 APRIL 1958 AT CHARLESTON, SC
COMMISSIONED:	05 JANUARY 1959 AS AGR-16 AT CHARLESTON, SC
HOMEPORT:	11 APRIL 1959 AT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
DECOMMISSIONED:	11 AUGUST 1965
DISPOSITION:	30 OCTOBER 1974 SOLD AS SCRAP FOR \$179,842.00

Watchman was the sixteenth and last Radar Picket Ship put into service by the United States Navy. Her duties, as with her sister ships of RADRON ONE, were to provide radar coverage seaward so as to provide early warning of approaching enemy aircraft.



Note: **All orders must reach me by April 15, 2008.** 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.

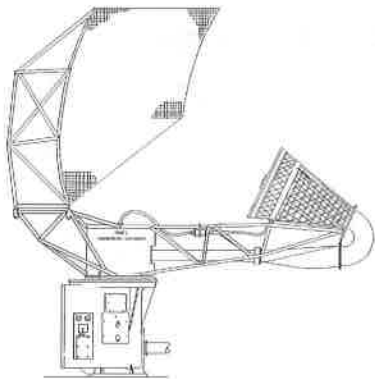
Hat/Lapel Pins.

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

Hat Devices.

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

All ship store items that have been ordered have been shipped. If you have not received something you ordered, please get in touch with me.



NPS-12 Annular (p12)

ITEM	EACH	QUANTITY	SUB TOTAL
ALL HAT/LAPEL PINS LISTED BELOW ARE \$4.75 EACH OR ANY TWO FOR \$8.50			
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 SEARCHER AGR-4		X	=
USS SCANNER AGR-5		X	=
USS LOCATOR YAGR-6		X	=
USS PICKET AGR-7		X	=
USS INTERCEPTOR AGR-8		X	=
USS INVESTIGATOR AGR-9		X	=
USS OUTPOST AGR-10		X	=
USS PROTECTOR AGR-11		X	=
USS VIGIL AGR-12		X	=
USS INTERDICTOR AGR-13		X	=
USS INTERPRETER AGR-14		X	=
USS TRACER AGR-15		X	=
USS WATCHMAN AGR-16		X	=
COST FOR ITEMS BELOW ARE AS LISTED			
PO1 OR PO3 CROW FOR HAT PO2 NOT AVAILABLE			
PO _____ WANTED	\$4.65	X	=
HAT SPECIALITY DEVICE SPECIFY DEVICE			
_____	\$4.90	X	=
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YAGRS	TOTAL		
YOUR NAME			

YAGR'S
13th Annual Reunion
Newport, RI Area (Warwick, RI)
May 18, 19, 20, 2008

Please return As Soon As Possible, But No Later Than April 15, 2008.

NAME _____

NAME OF SPOUSE/GUEST _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

SHIP SERVED ON _____ DATE ON BOARD _____ RATE _____

Reunion Registration	Please Print
Providence, RI	May 18 - May 20, 2008

	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total
EXAMPLE	\$92.00	X	2	=	\$184.00
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$92.00	X		=	\$
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$109.00	X		=	\$

Pre-Reunion Tours	SEE NOTE ON PAGE TWO!!!!!!!	Please Print
--------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------

Mystic Seaport					
Friday May 16, 2008					
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM					
Names of People going on tour					
	\$46.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$46.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$46.00	X	1	=	\$
Boston, MA					
Saturday May 17, 2008					
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM					
Names of people going on tour					
	\$34.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$34.00	X	1	=	\$
	\$34.00	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	\$