



# Radars Picket Ships YAGRGRAM #49 SUMMER 2008

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## YAGR'S Memorial Service And Plaque Dedication

*Aboard The U.S.S. Massachusetts BB-59,  
Monday, May 19, 2008*

### **YAGR Memorial Service And Exhibit Rededication**

#### *Invocation:*

Oh Lord, we thank You for preserving us alive...sustaining us...and bringing us together to renew old friendships and — in unison — to honor and remember our shipmates and those we worked alongside of who are unable to be here or who are no longer with us.

We served during a unique time in history...one of world tension, when a series of blips on our radar scopes could mean the start of a nuclear war. We had no heroic battles except for the powerful forces of nature or mechanical failing. But our purpose was very clear: to protect our country from attack.

The names of our ships said it all: Guardian, Lookout, Skywatcher, Searcher, Scanner, Locator, Picket, Interceptor, Investigator, Outpost, Protector, Vigil, Interdictor, Interpreter, Tracer, Watchman! But, the ships are gone!

We are grateful for men like Harry Miller and his stalwart crew whose foresight, dedication, and plain old-fashion hard work to establish and preserve what we did, through our exhibit aboard this famous battleship. And for bringing us together once a year to share the very special comradery of being a YAGR sailor!

*Rev. Ivan S. Fleischman,*

*Justice of the Peace*

*U.S.S. Lookout 1957-59; LTJG*

Ivan Fleischman (AGR-2)



226 YAGRMEN, spouses and guests witnessed our memorial service on the fantail of the Battleship Massachusetts which included the casting of a wreath to remember our deceased shipmates along with a 21-gun salute from the ship's 5 inch guns.

After the memorial service we proceeded to the YAGR'S exhibit on the second deck of the ship for the rededication of the YAGR'S exhibit and memorial plaque unveiling.



Don Batty (AGR-9) Phyllis Hooper (AGR-6)



THIS EXHIBIT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEN WHO SAILED ON THE GUARDIAN CLASS OF RADAR PICKET SHIPS AND THE REPAIR UNITS THAT KEPT THEM SEAWORTHY, AND AS A MEMORIAL TO THE CREWMEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON THESE SHIPS IN THE SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTRY.

"AND ANY MAN WHO MAY BE ASKED IN THIS CENTURY WHAT HE DID TO MAKE HIS LIFE WORTHWHILE, I THINK CAN RESPOND WITH A GOOD DEAL OF PRIDE AND SATISFACTION. I SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY."  
 "PRESIDENT" JOHN F. KENNEDY, US NAVAL ACADEMY 1 AUGUST 1963

RADAR PICKET SQUADRON ONE

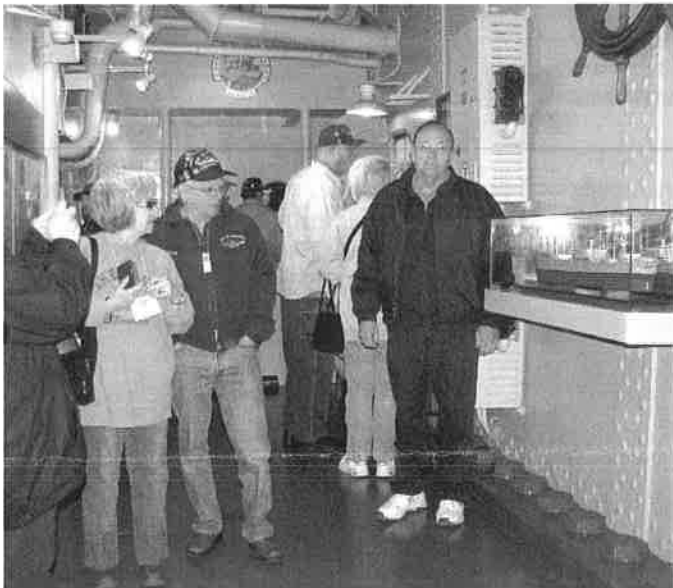
RADAR PICKET SQUADRON TWO

USS SCANNER	AGR-5	USS GUARDIAN	AGR-1
USS LOCATOR	AGR-6	USS LOOKOUT	AGR-2
USS PICKET	AGR-7	USS SKYWATCHER	AGR-3
USS INTERCEPTOR	AGR-8	USS SEARCHER	AGR-4
USS INTERDICTOR	AGR-13	USS INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9
USS INTERPRETER	AGR-14	USS OUTPOST	AGR-10
USS TRACER	AGR-15	USS PROTECTOR	AGR-11
USS WATCHMAN	AGR-16	USS VIGIL	AGR-12
		USS	YR-23
		USS	YR-65

SHIPS IN SERVICE  
 1955 - 1965

Roland Cote (AGR-10) and Harry Miller (AGR-11) unveiled the memorial plaque in the YAGR'S exhibit. In doing so, they also officially reopened the YAGR'S exhibit.

The exhibit has been greatly expanded since the original opening in 2002. Items and displays added include pictures of the ships, plaque models, radar room, display of sea stories, information on liberty ship design with models (both standard and the boxed aircraft types) and repainting the deck. Other work done but not seen was revamping the majority of the electrical work in the exhibit area.



Bill Simcox (AGR-4), shown in above picture by the model of the USS Guardian AGR-1 that he built, has donated another model to the exhibit.

He has built a model of the USS YR-65, which was the mobile repair barge that was the primary support unit for the ships of RADRON TWO.



## Mystic Seaport Pre-reunion Tour

The first of our pre-reunion tours was to Mystic Seaport. With 110 people loaded on three buses we headed out. Even though the weather was not ideal (it was a grey and dreary day with rain in the forecast) it did not stop all of us brave tourists.



Leaving the hotel lobby to begin to load up the buses.



Ready for the bus ride to Mystic.

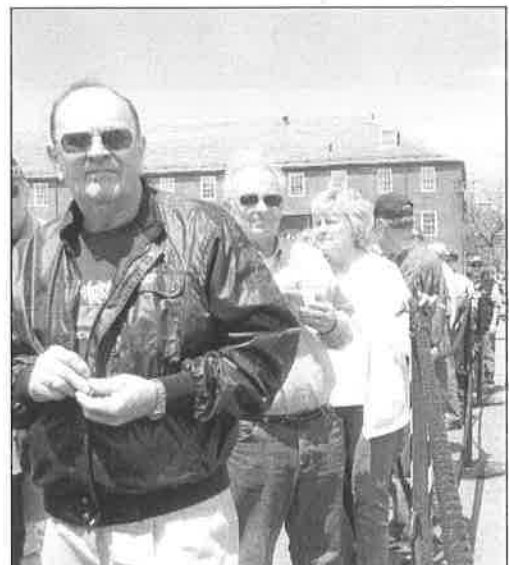


A few of us at Mystic.



## Boston, MA Pre-reunion Tour

124 people took the tour to see the sights of Boston by bus. It included a visit to the USS Constitution and lunch at Quincy Market.



The hospitality room opened at noon on Sunday and the YAGR'S 13th reunion was officially started. The room provided a place to have a light snack and a beverage as well as a place to meet former shipmates and others. With crewmen from 16 ships and the YR, there were plenty of sea stories going around. As you can see by some of the pictures, the hospitality room was put to good use.

It also provided a good location to hear about a great location to visit or a good restaurant nearby.



Checking in and picking up the reunion packets



A thanks goes out to Roland and Yvonne Cote (AGR-10) for their help in setting up this year's reunion.

Also to Al and Lois Bump (AGR-12), Mike and Lucy Smith (AGR-12) for their help in the hospitality room.



## Mens Meeting

The meeting got underway at 9:15 Tuesday morning with 123 men in attendance.

Ken Rochette (AGR-6) was presented a plaque for being the first to sign up for the reunion. Ken also won the raffle drawing for a free three-night stay at the hotel. Tickets were sold throughout the reunion for this prize. After going over various reports about the Association, we took a short break before moving on to other business.

Mike NeSmith (AGR-9) gave a brief report on the upcoming reunion in San Diego. He reported that he has checked out hotels in the San Diego area and we will make an inspection of three of them before deciding on which one we will use.

We then opened up the floor to possible locations for the 2010 YAGR'S reunion site. Fresno, CA, Tuszon, AZ, Green Bay, WI, Lake George, NY, Nashville, TN and a cruise were the locations voted on.



Ken "RO" Rochette with Harry Miller presenting him his plaque.

**For the 2010 YAGR'S reunion, we will be going on a cruise.**



## YAGR'S 2009 Reunion San Diego, CA



As noted above, we have not yet selected the hotel for the San Diego reunion, so naturally the dates are not set either. As soon as the hotel and dates are set, we will get this information out to you.

Something to remember. We try to hold all our reunions from mid-May to mid-June on a Thursday to Sunday time period. But as happened at the Rhode Island reunion, this is not written in blood. Due to hotel availability and function room dates, this can change.

Tours, both pre-reunion and the group tour, will have to be worked on also. The two pre-reunion tours have proven to be very popular, so we will try to set something up for the two days before the actual reunion dates.

As soon as we get any information we will get it on our web site, so check it often ([www.yagrs.org](http://www.yagrs.org)).

## Spouses/ Guests

Tuesday morning 107 Spouses/Guests got together for the breakfast, raffle and hat contest.

The men seem to think that the time spent at the breakfast is all fun and games. But, they are wrong! Major decisions have to be made. First, what do I want to have from the buffet breakfast selection; next, deciding on what prizes I want to try to win. With so many, this is no easy task. Finally and most importantly, judging the hat contest. With the great job done on all the hats, it just adds to the pressure.

With that said and done, we do have a great time!!!



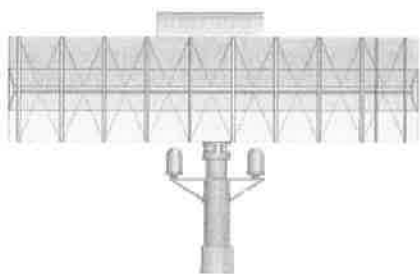
Choosing what prizes to try to win.



Getting ready for the hat contest.



The two finalist were Cherrie Westcott (AGR-4) shown on the left and Cheri Nosworthy (AGR-6) on the right. Cherrie Westcott was declared the winner of the 2008 YAGR'S best hat decorating contest.





Joe Gamache (AGR-4) 1956-1957

True Story

This is a true Navy experience. In 1957 I was at home in Nashua, NH on a week-end liberty. My ship, the USS Searcher YAGR 4 ( at that time ), was in the Boston Navy shipyard. The ship was due to leave for some type of sea trials at 0800 for 10 days. I got up a little later that Monday morning, left NH at 0600 with what I believed to be enough time to make the ship (normally 40 minutes back then). I had driven into Boston several times knowing a few short cuts. But this morning I got stuck in traffic. Approaching the road to the shipyard, it was now 0800. I felt lucky to find a parking place under an overpass. I ran as fast as I could to the gate about 500 feet, showed my pass and ran toward the pier. A large building was blocking my view of the ship but as I rounded the building there was my ship about 50 feet away from the pier. I ran down the pier not knowing what to do. Some of my so-called buddies were yelling (a little late Joe). A dock worker asked me, is that your ship? YES. He said are you willing to stand on that ball attach to that crane? We can swing you out and drop you on that first cargo cover. I got on the ball holding my diddy bag and they lifted me up not sure how high (I didn't care) and swung me out and dropped me on #1 cargo hatch cover. The captain said, now I've seen everything.

I proceeded to my station, Combat Information Center as I was a Radarman. All my shipmates asked me the same question. What are you doing in dressed blues? I just came aboard on a crane. SURE!!! The next problem I had was I still had my Liberty card. Back then you gave your liberty card to the OOD on the Quarter Deck when you came aboard or drop it in a box. I asked my watch supervisor what to do with it? He say's you should have given it to the OOD. I know but there was no OOD. Ask your Division officer. Same question, same answer. Try to return it to the supply office. Same problem. They would not take it.

Anyway had fun with the crane thing all that time out to sea. Returning to Boston shipyard I went on liberty. When I got to my yellow Mercury convertible with a dark green top, I found out why nobody parked there. My car was covered with 1 inch of seagull droppings. My green top was never the same. I really enjoy telling my 9 grandkids some of my sea stories. My kids say, dad I heard that one several times. If any shipmates witnessed this crane thing, please e-mail me at [bsp.joe@comcast.net](mailto:bsp.joe@comcast.net)

### 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.



### YAGR'S Dues

**Dues for the June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009 dues year are now being collected. Dues are \$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.

### YAGRGRAMS

We have removed quite a few people from our mailing list due to them not responding to our request to return the information form that was sent to them. **If you have received a request form with this YAGRGRAM, PLEASE RETURN IT!!!**

We have no choice but to make these cuts as a way to help keep costs down. If it is not returned, I will assume you no longer wish to receive the YAGRGRAM.





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

Note: All orders must reach me by August 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, MM, MR, MS, QM, SH, SK, SM, are on hand, but in a limited quantity.



ITEM	EACH		QUANTITY		SUB TOTAL
<b>ALL HAT/LAPEL PINS LISTED BELOW ARE \$4.75 EACH OR ANY TWO FOR \$8.50</b>					
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					
USS OUTPOST AGR-10		X		=	
USS PROTECTOR AGR-11		X		=	
USS VIGIL AGR-12		X		=	
USS INTERDICTOR AGR-13		X		=	
USS INTERPRETER AGR-14					
USS TRACER AGR-15		X		=	
USS WATCHMAN AGR-16		X		=	
<b>COST FOR ITEMS BELOW ARE AS LISTED</b>					
<b>HAT</b> HULL # _____	\$20.00	X	_____	=	
<b>DENIM SHIRT</b> HULL # _____ SIZE _____	S, M, L, XL \$34.00	X	_____	=	
SIZE _____	XXL \$36.00	X	_____	=	
<b>MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YAGRS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>				
<b>YOUR NAME</b>					
<b>PHONE #</b>					