



# Radar Picket Ships

## YAGRGRAM #56

Spring 2010

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## YAGR'S 15th Reunion

## 2010 Reunion Cruise

# Carnival Freedom

May 2 to May 8, 2010



## Not Signed Up Yet?

For those of you who have not signed up for the reunion cruise, it might not be too late. You can call Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises and Tours (1-800-998-1228). He might still be able to get you a cabin, but bear in mind it will be at the rate the cruise line is currently charging.



Check out the Carnival web site at [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com). You will find links so you can take a look at the ship or, if you have already booked your cabin, you can find links to get you set up for your cruise. Doing the paperwork online will save you time at check-in.



## YAGR'S 2010 Reunion Cruise

Pages 7 and 8 of this YAGRGRAM have the information and registration form for the reunion cruise. The registration form is from Holiday Cruises and Tours. This is the tour company that will be making all the cruise arrangements. It should be noted that only those who sign up with Holiday Cruises and Tours Company will be included in the YAGR'S shipboard functions -- no exceptions! The registration form on page #8 is to be sent to Holiday Cruises and Tours.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with me.

### If you have already booked your cabin.

Holiday Cruises and Tours Company has been keeping me posted on who has booked a cabin. Once I receive the names of people booking a cabin, I send them a YAGR'S reunion registration form. I will need this to keep track of everyone who will be on the cruise. There will be a very small registration fee. This fee will cover the reunion pins for all who will be at the reunion and miscellaneous expenses that YAGR'S incurs for the reunion.



### Needed

#### Sea Stories or photos.

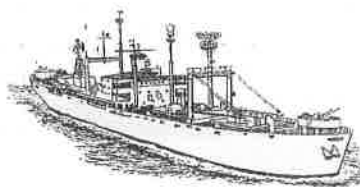
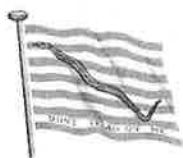
We need more sea stories or photos for the YAGRGRAMS. If you have any sea stories or photos you would like to pass along, get them to me

### Visit YAGR'S Web Page

[www.yagrs.org](http://www.yagrs.org)

Webmaster

Frank Pulaski (AGR-4)



### Dues

**\$17.00**

Dues for the June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 dues year are now being collected.

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, a date will be above your name on the mailing label this YAGRGRAM came in. Also if you have paid your dues and there is no date above your name or you did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.



### **Guy E. Noble (CO, AGR-11 1960-62)**

When departing Davisville in early January 1961 headed for the picket line, the Protector was diverted and ordered to establish a picket station about 70 miles southeast of Nantucket Island. A Texas Tower had been at that site for several years but a bad North Atlantic gale had toppled the tower a few weeks earlier with the loss of approximately 40 men. After a week on station, we were then ordered to proceed to our assigned picket station. A picket station in 1961 was an 80 by 40 mile rectangle.

On the night of 19 January, we received warning of a massive blizzard coming off the east coast, centered around Norfolk. I told the OOD to head for the southeast corner of the station at maximum speed. When the winds reached 45 knots, the radars were secured. At midnight, the winds had increased to 65 knots. I knew from the weather reports that the worst was yet to come ... so I headed for the bridge and planned for an all night vigil. By 0600 the wind had increased to 100 knots with higher gusts. The winds continued to increase during the morning and we were experiencing steady 110 knot winds with gusts over 130. The anemometer couldn't register any higher! This storm was far worse than any hurricane or typhoon I had experienced. My greatest fear was we could lose power and broach...putting us at the mercy of the sea. We were fortunate, however, and only were knocked about 45 degrees off course by a massive wave. It took almost 20 minutes to bring the ship's head back into the wind and sea. The storm finally began to abate about 1300 and by 1600 the winds had dropped off to 35 knots.

All during the storm we were unable to establish our position so we had no idea how far off station we had been blown. To our amazement, the wind, sea, and Gulf Stream had carried us about 70 miles BACKWARD in 24 hours.. although we had been making turns for full speed ahead!

The only damage the ship suffered was to the propeller blades. Apparently, we had struck some object in the water during the storm. At the end of the picket, the ship headed for Boston to have a new radar installed and storm damage repaired.



### **Guy E. Noble (CO, AGR-11 1960-62)**

Late in February 1961, the Protector departed Boston for the southern most picket station. Shortly after arriving on station, the Engineering Officer, Stretch Morss, informed me that we were almost OUT of lube oil. We had a three week picket staring us in the face and the worst thing that can happen to any ship is not being able to fulfill its mission. Apparently, the Oil King was so caught up in some romance problems that he had neglected his duty and had not procured a sufficient amount of lube oil for the trip.

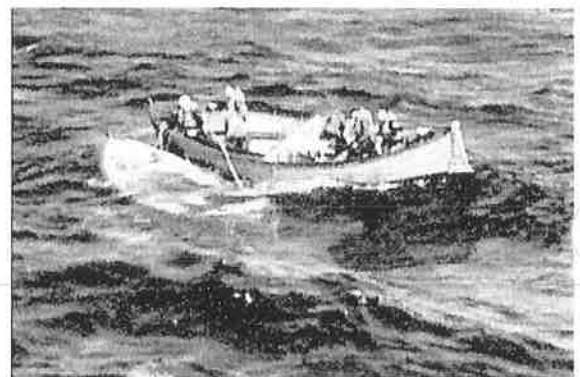
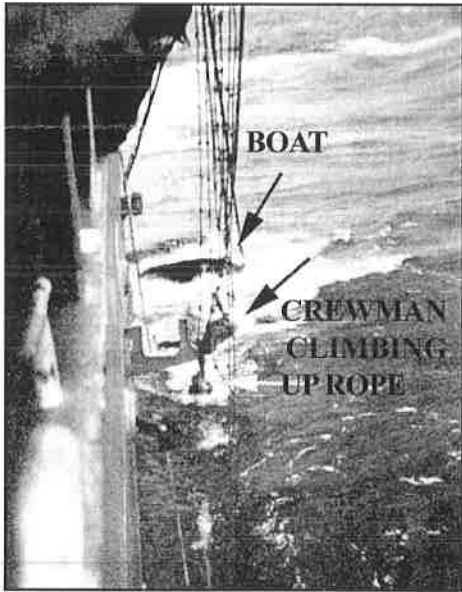
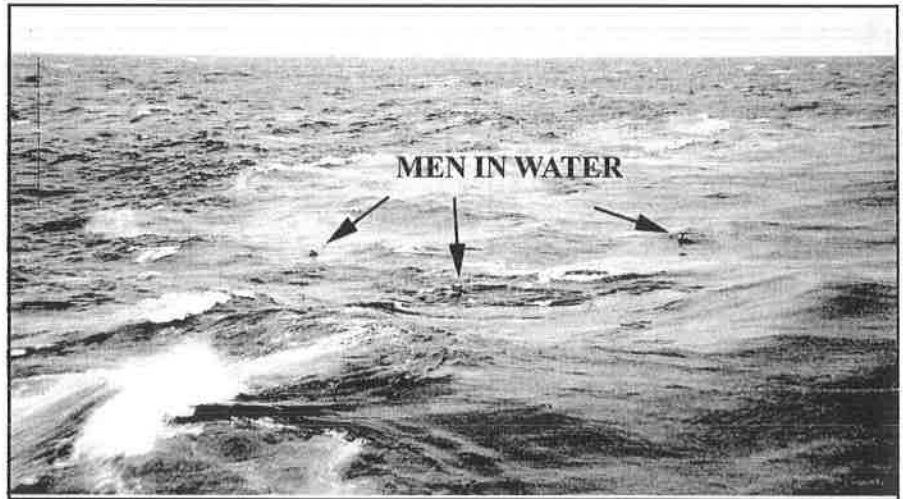
I called a meeting of all officers and chiefs to kick around ideas for solving the problem. We had sufficient lube oil for 4 or 5 days. This would be held in reserve for the trip back to Davisville. During the picket we would use the main engine as little as possible and drift within our area ... Also pray for good weather which is quite unusual in the Atlantic during the winter. Another suggestion, which we immediately effected, was to confiscate all the cooking oil, butter, margarine and any other items that could be used as a lubricant. This meant a drastic change in meal planning but it couldn't be helped.

We lucked out ... The weather was beautiful for almost the entire three weeks and for the trip to Davisville, or as we affectionately called it, "Gruntville". Thank God the Commodore never found out about our predicament .... He would have scalped me!

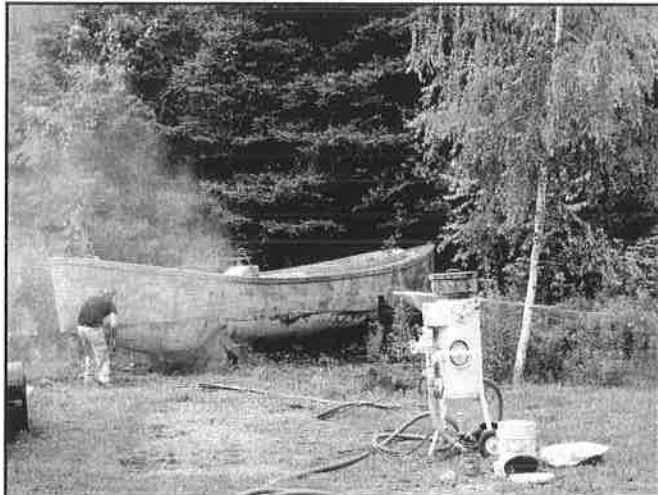
**Do you have a good sea story that you would like to pass along?  
Send it in for possible publication in one of the YAGRGRAMS.**

# What can go wrong with a boat transfer at sea?

These pictures was sent to me by Charles Parker who served on the Skywatcher from 1958-1961. There was not any story about when or why. But what they show is a boat transfer gone wrong. Maybe this is why the ships would hi-line so much.



I received these photo's from a gentlemen who owns the whaleboat that was on the USS Protector AGR-11. He has owned the whaleboat since 1992 and it now getting around to refurbishing it.





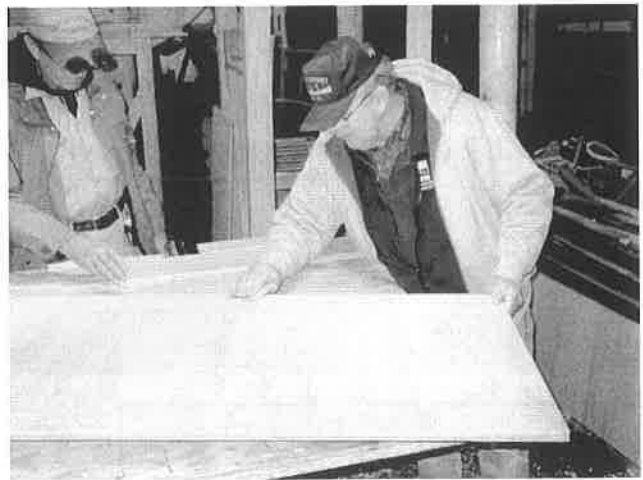
# YAGR'S Exhibit

## Battleship Massachusetts

Roland Cote (AGR-10), John Hemminger (AGR-2), Harry Miller (AGR-11, YR-65) and Dave Terry (AGR-10) have been working on the display cases for the binnacle, helm and engine order telegraph.

While we had the cases built, we had to make the moulding that will hold the plexi-glass panels in place. Unfortunately the mouldings are not stock items. After picking up stock lumber the milling process got started to produce the moulding we need to secure the plexi-glass in place.

While this is no big deal, the compartment we have our shop set up in has no heat. So this complicates matters somewhat. Doing finish carpentry in a freezing shop made things a little more difficult. If you look at the pictures, you will see us wearing our coats to try to keep warm.



### International Insignia Helps YAGR'S

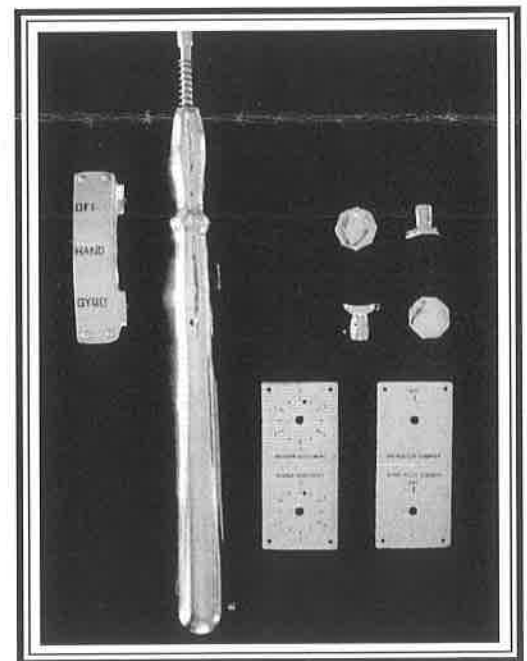
In preparation for setting up the display for the ship helm, we removed all the hardware so that we could paint the pedestal.

Once the hardware was off, we realized how bad the finish was on the items. It was decided to have them refinished. International Insignia agreed to do the work. We have used the company on earlier projects so we knew they did good work.

As the company owner Robert Rayburn and I were looking over the pieces, we discovered the original finish was chrome, not brass as we thought.

After leaving the pieces with Bob to clean and chrome plate, he called me a few weeks later to pick them up.

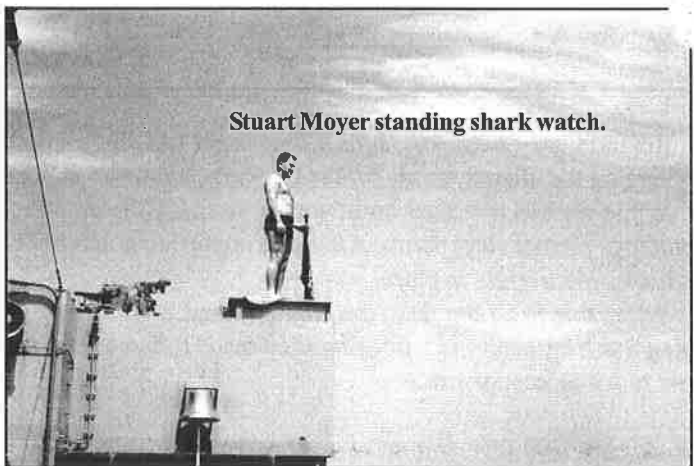
When I went to pick the items up, Bob had a pleasant surprise for me. He informed me that there would be no charge for the work he had done.



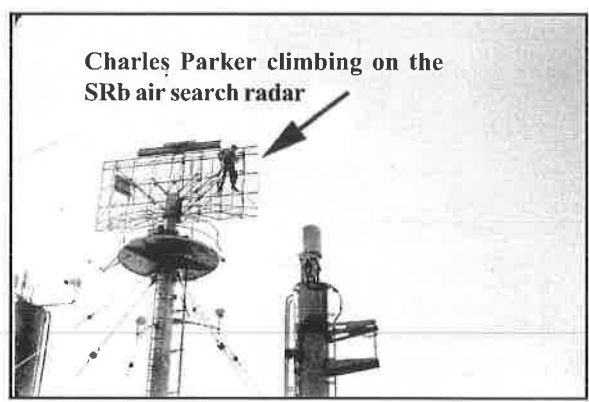
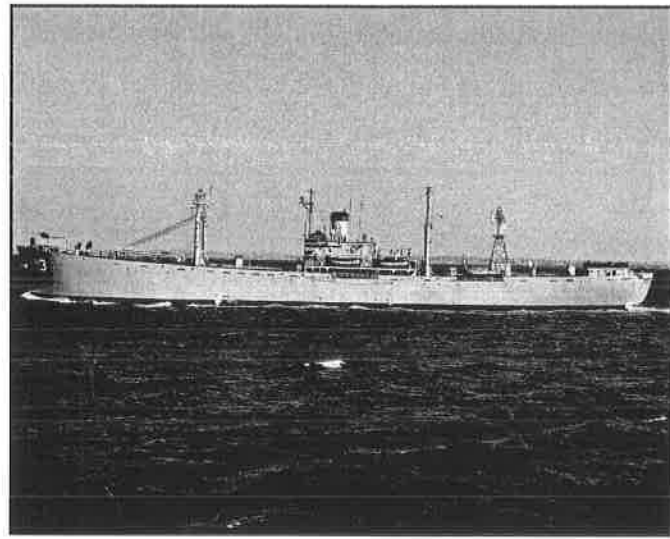


# USS Skywatcher AGR-3

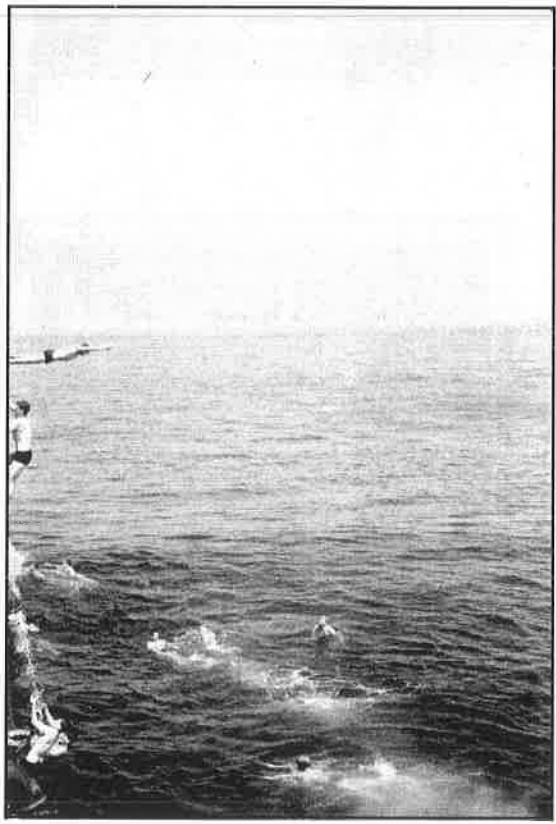
Photos sent in by  
Charles Parker (AGR-3)



Stuart Moyer standing shark watch.



Charles Parker climbing on the  
SRb air search radar



Swim call.



Crewman being hi-lined between the USS Skywatcher AGR-3  
and the USS Lookout AGR-2

## 2010 YAGR'S REUNION CRUISE

**6 day cruise on the Carnival Freedom.  
Carnival web site; [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com)**

**Leaves from Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Sunday May 2, 2010 returning Saturday May 8, 2010**



Day	Port of Call	Arrive	Depart
Sunday, May 02	Ft. Lauderdale, FL		4:00pm
Monday, May 03	Key West, FL	8:00am	5:00pm
Tuesday, May 04	Fun Day At Sea		
Wednesday, May 05	Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands	7:00am	4:00pm
Thursday, May 06	Ocho Rios, Jamaica	7:30am	3:30pm
Friday, May 07	Fun Day At Sea		
Saturday, May 08	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	8:00am	

**Call Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises and Tours (1-800-998-1228) for up-to-date cost.**

For those of you who will be coming in early, you can book a room at the Courtyard by Marriott Ft. Lauderdale/Airport & Cruiseport

1 Gulf Stream Way

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33004 Phone number Direct (954-342-8333), Central Reservations (800-321-2211)

Room Rate \$109.00 per night (this rate is good 2 days before and after the cruise).

This rate includes airport shuttle, cruiseport shuttle and complimentary parking for YAGR'S people that are driving in.

Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises and Tours (1-800-998-1228) will be taking our reservations for the cruise.

He will also assist you with your air arrangements if you cannot book online or do not have a friend or family member to help you.

He will also answer any questions you might have. When calling remember he is on PST time zone.

Travel Insurance is highly recommended. Call Brian for details.

While on the Carnival Freedom YAGR'S will have;

Hospitality room (on sea days), \$25.00 shipboard credit per cabin, a one hour cocktail party and group dining.

We are **trying** to set up a special bridge tour of the ship for the first 15 crewmen who sign up for the cruise.

This tour is not available to the passengers.

**ONLY THOSE WHO BOOK WITH BRIAN WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE YAGR'S GROUP FUNCTIONS.**

**CHECK ON THE LATEST PASSPORT REGULATIONS TO SEE WHETHER YOU NEED ONE.**

## Reunion Registration

### YAGR'S Registration Form

**Date May 02 - 08/2010 Carnival Freedom sailing from Ft.Lauderdale**

Passenger 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Work # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail (important) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3<sup>rd</sup> person \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup> person \_\_\_\_\_

**"LEGAL NAMES ARE REQUIRED ON ALL DOCUMENTATION"**

(i.e. ROBERT not BOB, ELIZABETH not LIZ)

**\*\*\* PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING \*\*\***

**Call Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises and Tours (1-800-998-1228) for cabin cost.**

Interior cabins \_\_\_\_\_ Oceanview cabins \_\_\_\_\_ Balcony Cabins \_\_\_\_\_

**For single or 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> person rates call Brian @ 800-998-1228**

Travel Care Insurance is highly recommended. Cost per person is \$60.50

YES @ deposit \_\_\_\_\_ @ final payment \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**\*If you have any pre-existing medical conditions, you are advised to purchase your Travel Care Insurance at the time of your deposit. Call Brian @ 800 998 1228 with any questions.**

**If paying by check, make checks payable to: Holiday Cruises and Tours**

**Mailing Address: 6969 E. Shea Boulevard, Suite #101, Scottsdale, AZ 85254**

Credit card payments: Amex \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Auto charge final payment to this card Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

A deposit of \$250 per person is due @ time of booking to secure your cabin choice. **Your deposit is fully refundable up until time of final payment which is February 1 / 2010.**

I authorize Holiday Cruises and Tours to charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ON THE LATEST PASSPORT REGULATIONS TO SEE WHETHER YOU NEED ONE.

**Please sign and return by mail or fax to 480-998-3849**