



## YAGRGRAM #61 - Fall 2011

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### A Message from Lee Doyel, Chair 17th Annual YAGR'S Reunion - Lancaster PA

Details and registration for the 17th reunion are in this YAGRGRAM. Dates are May 10 to May 12, 2012.

Host hotel is: Double Tree by Hilton  
2400 Willow Street Pike  
Lancaster, PA 1702  
Call 1-717-464-2711 for reservations

As always, make sure you tell them you are with the YAGRS military group to get the group rate. The rate is \$99.00 a night (plus 11% room tax) for a single or double room. The rate is good for 5 days prior and 5 days post reunion dates. The hotel has blocked off 100 rooms for our group. They have a website ([doubletree1.hilton.com/lancasterpa](http://doubletree1.hilton.com/lancasterpa)) which you can check to see what the hotel rooms, lobby, restaurant, etc. look like and what accommodations are available. If you have trouble booking let me know. Sorry, no pets.

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The reunion format will be the same as past reunions. We will have pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 9th. On Thursday, May 10, we will open the hospitality room at noon. On Friday, May 11, we will go on our group tour with the hospitality room opening on our return. On Saturday, May 12, the men's business meeting and spouses/guests function will be held in the morning. The hospitality room will open afterwards and the banquet will be Saturday evening. Sunday, May 13 is check out time.

### REUNION REGISTRATION

The reunion cost this year will be \$98.00 per person for dues paying members and their spouses/guests and \$115.00 per person for non-dues paying members

and their spouses/guests. A dues paying member is one whose dues have been paid up to 5/31/2012. If in doubt look on the mailing envelope label this YAGRGRAM came in. If a date of 5/31/12 or later is on it, you are a dues paying member.

Send your completed registrations and checks to:  
Don Baldwin, YAGR's Treasurer  
4365 Angie Dr., Tucker, GA 30084

### GROUP TOUR - FRIDAY MAY 11th, 2012

The Friday tour is a 5 hour guided tour of Amish countryside/farms/quilt & craft shops/etc. with lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord.

### PRE-REUNION TOURS

Tuesday tour May 8th, 2012.

The Tuesday tour is the afternoon showing (3:45 pm) of "Jonah" at the Sight & Sound's Millennium Theater with a family style dinner at the Hershey Farm Restaurant afterwards.

Wednesday tour May 9th, 2012.

The Wednesday tour is a tour of the city covering architecture, churches, historical points of interest, etc. with an afternoon ride on the Strasburg Railroad and subsequent visit to the Railroad Museum.

In case you didn't notice there was no mention of a hotel airport shuttle. There is NONE as THERE IS NO AIRPORT IN LANCASTER. The closest airport is in Harrisburg, PA which is 40 miles away. Also there is no regular limousine /shuttle service from Harrisburg to Lancaster. I am exploring various possibilities (bus rental, cabs, car pooling, etc.) to alleviate the situation (at least for Thursday arrivals and Sunday departures). However cost may prove to be prohibitive. Details/results of my efforts will be in a future YAGRGRAM.

# Spouses/Guests Program



Once again all the spouses & guests will gather for a breakfast buffet and raffle while the men are at their meeting.



For the raffle we ask that you bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. Bring something that you would like to win yourself. Arts & crafts and other handcrafted items are always a favorite with everyone.

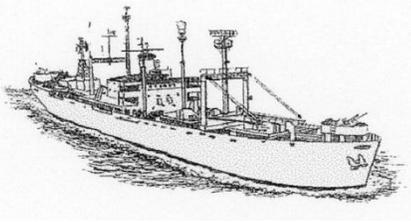
Many of the spouses & guests feel this is the best part of the reunion. It is a fun time and everyone is friendly. If you are a first timer, come and meet the other spouses and guests. You won't feel like a stranger and you will definitely have a good time.

# Battleship Massachusetts Exhibit

submitted by Roland & Yvonne Cote



The "YAGR EXHIBIT" aboard the Battleship Massachusetts is COMPLETE. The "Helm", "Binnacle", and "Telegraph" we're the last of our major projects. No further major work is scheduled simply because we do not have any more room in our exhibit space. Field Days will be the only continuation work needed aboard. Thank you to all who have helped in anyway, to make this dream a reality. Special thanks to: Harry Miller AGR-11, John Hemminger AGR-2, Dave Terry AGR-10, Roland Cote AGR-10, Henry McKay AGR-12, Jim Speigel AGR-12, Tom Giardina AGR-3 and Don Batty-AGR-9.



# Sea Stories

## Pete Bowman, AGR-11 (Protector) 1960-62, EM2

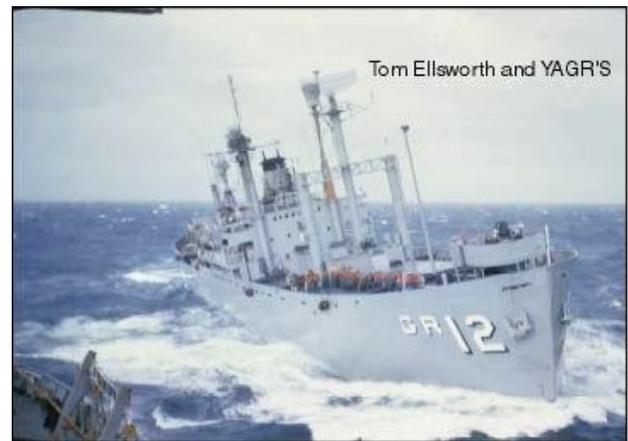
I have been thinking about writing some sea stories for some time. A combination of procrastination and something like the phrase from Mark Twain “the older I get the more things I remember never happened” has kept me from giving it a whirl. I think I have a few sea stories in my head someplace. The fact that the last YAGRGRAM had no sea stories and that my CO Guy Noble on the USS Protector, AGR 11 had two stories in the #56 YAGRGRAM has finally put me over the edge. I joined the Protector in early 1960. I was an 18 year old FA with an electrician rating. I grew up on Long Island Sound and thought of myself as a boating person. In other words I already felt like “an old salt.” We left the dock in Davisville and started to steam toward the Atlantic. I was stationed in the aft emergency generator room. As we sat around talking, I started to feel a little funny. So I asked the real old salt in the room if it was always this rough. He laughed and said “kid, go outside and see where we are.” We were still in the harbor steaming past Newport. The swells were causing the ship to roll up and down and I was definitely going south fast. Soon I was sick as a dog. My shipmates were very thoughtful. They hung my ditty bag on the end of my bunk so I could see it sway back and forth. They also talked about dinner and told me it was oysters on a string so if I didn’t like them, they could be pulled back out. For the next two days I prayed for death.

Alas I survived and we steamed to our picket station off Nova Scotia. Here is where I hope my memory has not created a fantasy or that this memory was really from my first picket. My recollection is that we hit a terrible storm. The ship sustained some serious damage and opened up an 80 foot hole from the 1st hold into the 2nd. It took us something like several days or a week to steam back to Davisville. We had to strap ourselves into our bunks with life jackets to sleep. I have a vague memory of a DE that was in our area losing its forward gun mount. Welcome to the NAVY at sea ☺ My next stories will involve Strafford Morse, my engineering officer (referred to as Stretch Morse by Guy Noble’s story) who participated in one of my 10 most significant life events, and the

experience of secretly steaming to Key West and beyond during the Bay of Pigs event if it is proper to write about this.

## Ray Germany, AGR-12 (Vigil) 1958-60

I spent a couple of months on the deck gang, then deck yeoman, and also helped in the personnel office for about 8 months, then the rest of the time striking for Radioman in the Radio Shack.



USS Vigil (AGR-12) Coming along side the USS Protector (AGR-11)

Once I hitchhiked from Davisville RI to Waco, TX. I caught a ride on a P2V Neptune from Quonset Pt. to Jacksonville, FL. Got to ride in the bubble up at the front of the plane. That was neat. Hitchhiked to Pensacola FL, and caught a ride on a Beechcraft going to Tucson, AZ. It stopped for refueling in Abilene, TX, and I got off and hitchhiked to Waco.

The second time I hitchhiked from Davisville to Waco via land. The longest ride I got was from Harrisburg, PA to Knoxville, TN, about 500 miles. That’s a good ride. Another interesting thing on that particular trip was I caught a ride with a drunk at Chattanooga, TN going south up Lookout Mountain. He dropped me off at Ft. Payne, GA on top of Lookout Mountain at 3 am on a Sunday morning, and I was stuck there till 6:30 am when I caught my next ride. He had a dilemma. His girl wouldn’t marry him until he stopped drinking, and he wasn’t going to stop drinking until his girl married him. I’ve often wondered how that turned out. Not good likely.

## sea stories - Ray Germany cont.

During that same (second) trip, I was hitchhiking across the top of MS on what's now US 20, I would see this lady pass me by, catch a short ride, see this lady pass me by again, catch another short ride, etc. Finally the lady picked me up. Turned out she was married to the son of the older couple that lived across the street from me in Waco. Now that's unusual!

Once when we were leaving Station 12, the northern most station, and were on the way back to Davisville after being relieved, I was forward lookout. I was on the mid-watch, and the sea was like glass. The stars were out. It was a beautiful night. With little imagination it seemed as if I was suspended in space with stars all above me, and stars all below me. I never will forget the peacefulness of that moment.

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Once when a hurricane passed over our station (we were too late, and too slow to move out of the way) I went (below decks) to the back of the ship, and went up to the weather deck (closed at that time), then when the ship leveled out, ran a short distance forward to the shack where I worked as Deck Yeoman. It had a porthole, and I could stand in the shack and watch the waves. They were 45 ft. high, and looking between them was like looking down a valley between two mountains. Never will forget that either.

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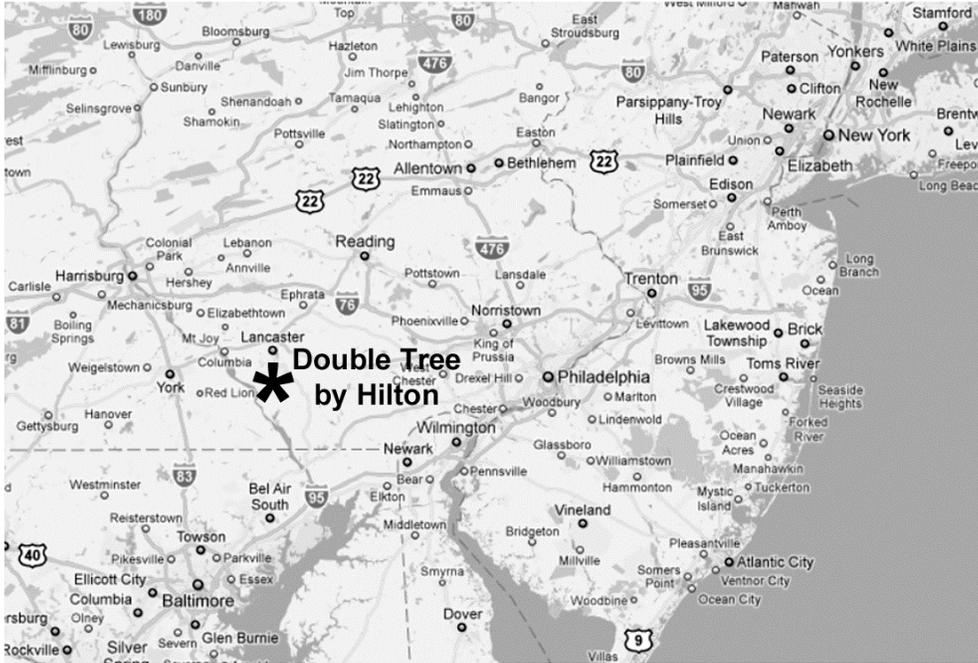
Once during a storm on one of the northern stations about 3 am, the Bosun mate woke us up; told us the motor whale boat had come loose, was tearing itself up, and we had to bring it in. Up on deck it was snowing, and the deck was slippery. I happened to be the first in line pulling on the after line of the motor whale boat. I took a heave and my feet slipped out from under me. All of a sudden I was on the deck on my back headed for the edge. The only thing that stopped me from going over was that 2 or 3 inch strip of metal sticking up at the edge. I don't know what the bosun thought (OMG!!!), but he screamed at me to get my butt back in line and help.

Saw the YAGR Exhibit on the USS Massachusetts a few weeks ago. Beautiful!

## Membership - Mel Harder Sec.

This YAGRGRAM is being mailed to over six hundred shipmates. Not all who receive this YAGRGRAM are current with their memberships. The current membership year runs from June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012. If you look on the envelop this YAGRGRAM came in, the date above your name is the date your membership is paid up to. If it says 5/31/11 or earlier, or is blank, your membership is not current. If it says 5/31/12 or later, you are a member in good standing. If your membership is not current, and you wish to continue receiving YAGRGRAMS, please mail your dues of \$17 (check made out to YAGR'S) to our treasurer Donald Baldwin, 4365 Angie Dr., Tucker GA 30084. You will receive a current membership card and a crew list for the ship you were on. You may pay for more than one year if you wish.





**Double Tree by Hilton  
Lancaster PA**

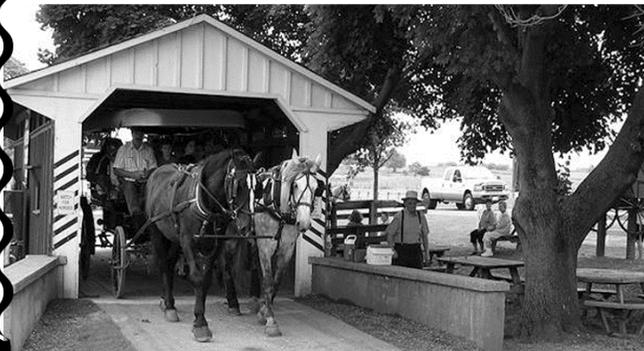


**Miller's Smorgasbord**



**Strasburg Railroad**

**Amish County**



# YAGR'S 17th Annual Reunion - Lancaster PA

## May 10 - May 12 2012

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible but no later than April 10, 2012 to Donald Baldwin, 4365 Angie Dr., Tucker GA 30084

Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship: \_\_\_\_\_ Date on Board: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship: \_\_\_\_\_ Date on Board: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Registration - Lancaster PA May 10 - May 12 2012					
	cost per person	X	# of people	=	total
dues paying member	\$98.00	X			\$
non-dues paying memers, spouses & guests	\$115.00	X			\$
<b>Pre-Reunion Tours</b>					
<b>Tuesday, May 8 - Sight &amp; Sound Millennium Theater &amp; Hershey Resturant</b>					
Name of People on Tour					total
	\$89.00				\$
	\$89.00				\$
	\$89.00				\$
<b>Wednesday, May 9 - City Tour &amp; Strasburg Railroad Train Ride</b>					
Name of People on Tour					total
	\$50.00				\$
	\$50.00				\$
	\$50.00				\$
<b>Total Amount Due</b>					\$

Reunion Shirts					total
\$18.00 each	small	medium	large	X-large	
# of each x \$18	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
\$20.00 each				XX-large	
# of each x \$20				\$	\$
<b>total for all shirts</b>					\$