

RadarPicket Ships



Mel Harder, Secretary
Drawer N
East Hartland CT 06027

YAGRGRAM #63 - Summer 2012

Lee Doyel, Chair, 2315 Bavarian Court, Pensacola FL 32503 (850) 433-6930 - yagrs16@cox.net
Mel Harder, Secretary - mel.harder@snet.net
Armand Lamarche, Treasurer - arlamarche@verizon.net

The 17th annual YAGR's reunion was held May 10 - May 12 at the Double Tree Inn by Hilton in Lancaster PA.

MINUTES - YAGRS BUSINESS MEETING
SATURDAY, MAY 12 2012
17th ANNUAL REUNION
DOUBLE TREE INN, LANCASTER PA

YAGRS Chair Lee Doyel, TRACER, called the meeting to order 9:30 am



YAGR'S Chair Lee Doyel opens the men's business meeting

Roland Cote, OUTPOST, who stays in touch with Harry Miller, reported that Harry is recovering from recent surgery. His recovery is slow and he is undergoing therapy. Those who wish to extend their best wishes may do so by email at yagrs@cox.net. Several get well cards were circulated in the hospitality room and signed by many in attendance, and will be sent along to Harry.

Lee Doyel reported 85 YAGR members were in attendance at the reunion and 68 spouses and guests. He recognized Vin Kneizys, VIGIL & INTERDICTION, for his work designing this year's logo & pin. He also recognized John Regina, OUTPOST, as the Lancaster reunion host stating his appreciation for all his efforts in getting the reunion set up. Lee reported that there were no



takers for the airport shuttle to the hotel he arranged, so he cancelled arrangements for the return shuttle. Dues remain at \$17/yr.. Harry Miller has a lifetime membership. Lee also said we will be planning our reunions two years in advance instead of the current one year, and brought up the topic of ship coordinators to maintain & update ships crew lists.

Mel Harder, INVESTIGATOR, presented the Secretary's report

Currently YAGRS has about 670 members. YAGRGRAMS are mailed to all current members. The YAGRGRAM is composed on a home computer, uploaded to Staples for printing, collating, stapling, folding and shipping to me. They are then stuffed into envelopes and address labels and stamps applied, as in YAGRGRAM #61, or mailed without envelope as I did for #62. The address labels are printed with the date membership is current to highlighted in yellow. It costs about one dollar per YAGRGRAM including postage.

cont.

minutes cont.

As dues are paid, the membership database is updated to show current membership status. It is also updated to show changes in address, phone etc., as is the database for each ship's crew list. If a member passes away, the member's name is removed from the membership database and the entry on the ship's crew list is notated as deceased. Members who fall more than two years behind on dues will be removed from the membership database and will no longer receive the YAGRGRAM. Names are never removed from crew lists.

Several members suggested using email to send YAGRGRAMS, and discussion followed. The suggestion was made that a coordinator for each ship could put together and maintain an email database for members who wish to receive the YAGRGRAM by email. The suggestion was also made to consider using a bulk mail permit for the YAGRGRAM. After discussion both issues were left unresolved. For the present YAGRGRAMS will continue to be sent by mail.

Lee Doyel presented the Treasurer's report

Donald Baldwin, SEARCHER, who has served as treasurer for the last year has had to resign for personal reasons. All financial records will be transferred to Lee, at which time he will organize records and accounts and report to the membership. Lee reports that YAGRS are in the black, details to be forthcoming. He asked for someone to take over as treasurer, and Armand Lamarche, LOOKOUT, volunteered. After brief discussion all agreed. Lee will be working with Armand to facilitate the transition.

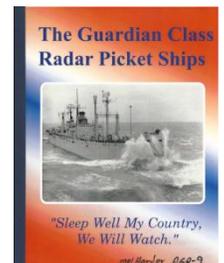
Frank Pulaski, SEARCHER, presented the Website Administrator report

Frank also maintains the Searcher web site, which can be accessed through the YAGR website, yagrs.org. Frank maintains a guest log, which has generated several new member contacts. Also, YAGRGRAMS are to be posted on the web site. The discussion came up regarding posting the ships' logos, which Frank said he could do. In addition, sea stories, reunion info & pics, YAGR exhibit, video and ship histories are posted.

Roland Cote gave a report of the YAGRS exhibit on the battleship USS Massachusetts

All construction work is done. Currently only general maintenance is required, which costs about \$100/yr. The only problem encountered so far is the constant breaking into the ships' cigarette lighter display and the theft of some of the lighters. Roland has removed all lighters.

Joe Maurer, VIGIL, has made arrangements for reprints of the YAGR BOOK. This book was published several years ago, and is available again for those who missed the first printing. An order form with details is included in this YAGRGRAM.



2013 & 2014 REUNIONS

Lee Doyel took up the subject of the locations for the 2013 & 2014 reunions. Al Bump, VIGIL, suggested Orlando FL and gave a short presentation of available facilities. Henry McKay suggested Tucson AZ. Seattle WA and San Antonio TX were also suggested. After discussion a vote by raised hand was taken. The results were Tucson for 2013 and San Antonio for 2014. Lee Doyel also is talking to contacts in NORAD to explore the possibility of a reunion in Colorado Springs, the home of NORAD. If arrangements can be made, it will probably not be until at least 2014. If 2014 can be done, then San Antonio would be pushed back to 2015.

end of minutes

Mel Harder, YAGRS Secretary

June 6, 2012

YAGR'S NEW TREASURER

At the Lancaster business meeting Armand Lamarche, LOOKOUT, accepted the treasurer's position. Dues payments should be sent to: Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica, MA 01862. A dues payment form is included in this YAGRGRAM.

MESSAGE FROM LEE DOYEL, CHAIR

This past reunion I was asked if the Association took credit cards. The answer is no. It is too expensive to do so as there would be a fee to the Association for each charge. Dues are either cash or check. Although a money order will also work. Dues remain at \$17.00 a year. We are still exploring the possibility of including it in the reunion registration cost/packet at the reunion. For the near future they are to be sent to Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St, North Billerica, MA 01862.

Next years reunion will be in Tucson, AZ. The time will have to be moved up to mid to latter part of April due to the heat factor.

Don Baldwin due to personal reasons had to resign as treasurer. Armand was named his successor. An audit by me disclosed the books were complete, and all funds (receipts & disbursements) were accounted for. The Association is well in the black and all reunion expenses were paid along with other bills before turning over the account to the new treasurer.

Ship hats have been ordered and will be shipped to those who requested them. Additionally a "YAGRS hat" was ordered from the supplier. It will take a little longer for that hat due to art/graphic set up. Cost to be determined on this hat but probably costlier than the regular ships hat due to a higher quality hat. I am exploring the possibility of having ship patches made and will keep you apprised of the progress via newsletter, ship coordinators & web site. Several people ask about jackets with the individual ship name on the back that some individuals were wearing at the reunion. Those were not done by the Association. They were done by the individual who wore them and came from a personal/local source. Anyone who had such a jacket, let me know your source and cost and I will put it in the newsletter for those who may wish to have one made on their own.

Again this year YAGRS was able to give the Massachusetts \$1,000.

One reason we are able to get good room rates at hotels is the expiration of the special room rate 30 days prior to the reunion dates. So if you wonder what the cut off date is just back it up 30 days. This reunion as in as in others some registered after the 30 expiration date. According to the contract (which I sign and am obligated for) with the hotel, it is their option if they grant the special rate to individuals registering after the 30 day expiration. Additionally those that do sign up after that date for the tours, (pre and regular) will be placed on a space available basis. If there is room on the bus ok, if not you can't go on the tour. We were lucky this year as I believe we were able to accommodate all the late registers. However please register on time as it makes it easier to schedule the buses (number, size, etc.). Oftentimes we can't adjust once the buses are contracted for.

At the business meeting I instituted a "Ships Coordinator" program wherein an individual from each ship would act as a repository for e-mail addresses for that persons ship. I would have the e-mail addresses for the coordinators in a group list and would send information to the individual coordinator for further distribution to members of their individual ship. The only duty of the coordinator is to acquire and maintain e-mail addresses from members of his ship and forward any information and activities. It will also be a means of feed back and suggestions relating to Association matters and activities. To date I have 9 coordinators who have volunteered. They are:

Maureen Monks, AGR-1, jwmonkssr@aol.com
Chuck Parker, AGR-3, chuckparker@gmail.com
Steve Mierzejewski, AGR-4, smjm@bex.net
Bob Werstler, AGR-5, rdwerst@sbcglobal.net
Frank Mahaffey, AGR-9, bnf@att.net
Paul Langenus, AGR-10, plangenus@cox.net
Jesse Germany, GR-12, jgermany31@gmail.com
Lee Doyel, AGR-15, mldoyel@cox.net
Frank McNamara, AGR-16, ec2sc1@comcast.net

Those of you who have e-mail addresses please forward them to the appropriate coordinator. Anyone who wishes to volunteer to be a coordinator please let me know and I will add you to the list.

LANCASTER REUNION PHOTOS AVAILABLE

Mike Nesmith, INVESTIGATOR, has many photos from the Lancaster reunion. Anyone who wants all the pics he took please send him a 4G SD card and he will load the pictures on it and send it to them. Mail the SD card to: Mike Nesmith, 4521 Tias St., San Diego, CA 92103.

REPRINTS OF THE YAGR BOOK AVAILABLE

As noted in the minutes of the business meeting, Joe Maurer, VIGIL, has arranged for reprints of the YAGR book. He has offered to oversee the printing and mailing of the books to members who may have missed the original printing. The book is soft cover, 140 pages. It covers the mission; ship construction details (with color plates); awards (color); picket station charts; color plates of ships' emblems; details and history of each ship; details with plans & photos from operation & engineering spaces; sea stories and photos of shipboard life, among other things. This may be the last chance to buy this book. Please use the order form below.

YAGR BOOK ORDER

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

email: _____

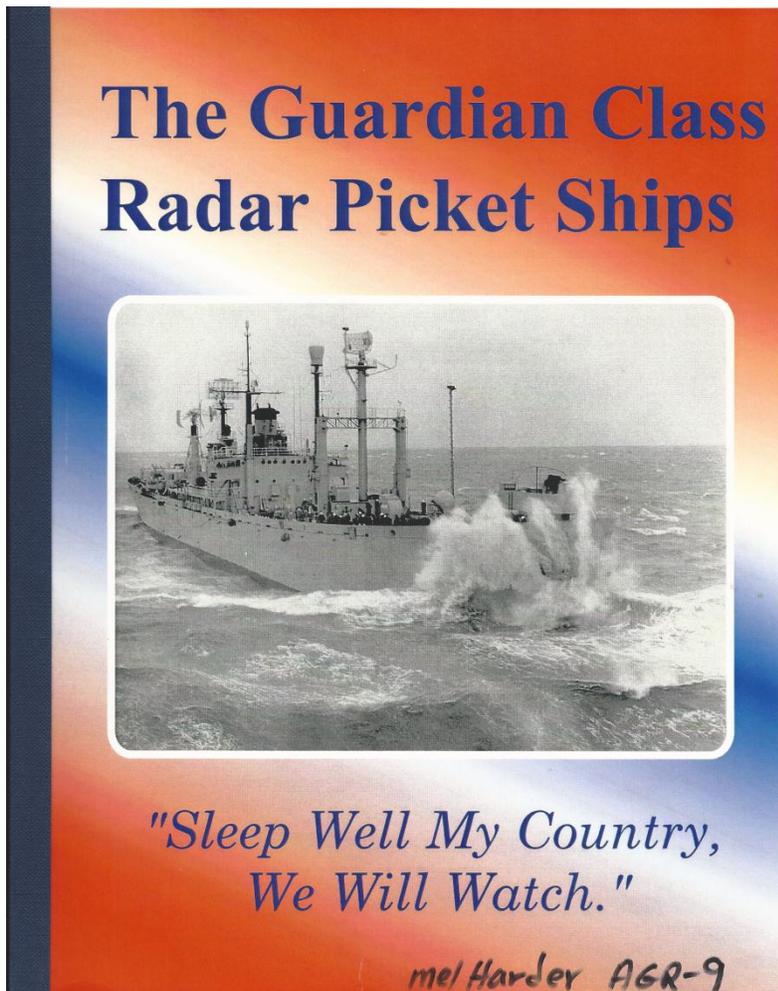
amount enclosed: _____

Books are \$11.10 plus postage (est. \$5.15) for spiral bound and \$11.55 plus postage for glued binding. Complete the above information and mail with check to Joe Maurer, 2127 South Bristol Dr., Lakeside Marblehead, OH 43440. You may contact Joe at (419) 734-0580 or runinmuck@yahoo.com with questions. **Please make checks payable to Joe Maurer.** Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

Report from the Spouse/Guest Meeting

submitted by Pat Reichling, AGR-15 (pareichling@aol.com)

A topic of discussion at the ladies breakfast was doing something charitable within a Patriotic/Wounded Warrior theme. The suggestion was made to send items to the Military Hospital in Landstaul Germany. Pat Reichling, who made the suggestion, has been doing this almost from the beginning of this war. The majority of the wounded are flown to Landstaul for treatment or to be stabilized before being flown to the States. Some stay on there in Germany for a recuperation period before being sent back to the battlefield. The most common complaint when they arrive in Germany is that they are cold. This could be due to the loss of blood and the climate change from the desert. Many times the warriors have been separated from their personal belongings, and arrive in Germany in



spouse/guest meeting cont.

their dirty, bloody uniform. Sometimes the uniforms have been slit to allow the medics access to their wounds. They basically arrive in Germany with nothing.

There is an American lady, MaryAnn Phillips, who lives in Germany and volunteers helping the wounded. She collects comfort articles and sees that they are distributed. It was decided that we, the women of Yagrs, would collect items, bring them to the next reunion and mail them to Germany. The articles would be that which would keep the soldiers warm. Pat Reichling offered to take the items to the Post Office and see that they are mailed, if everyone would donate to cover the cost of postage.

Items requested are

1. Flannel or Chambray long sleeve, button shirts in m-lg-xlg.
2. Lounge pants/pajama bottoms in m-lg-xlg
3. Short and long sleeved tee shirts. Plain if possible.
4. Light weight fleece blankets or Snuggles. I saw Snuggles for sale in Walmart last Spring for just \$5!!!
5. Hooded/zippered sweat shirts. Must be zippered ,not pullover.

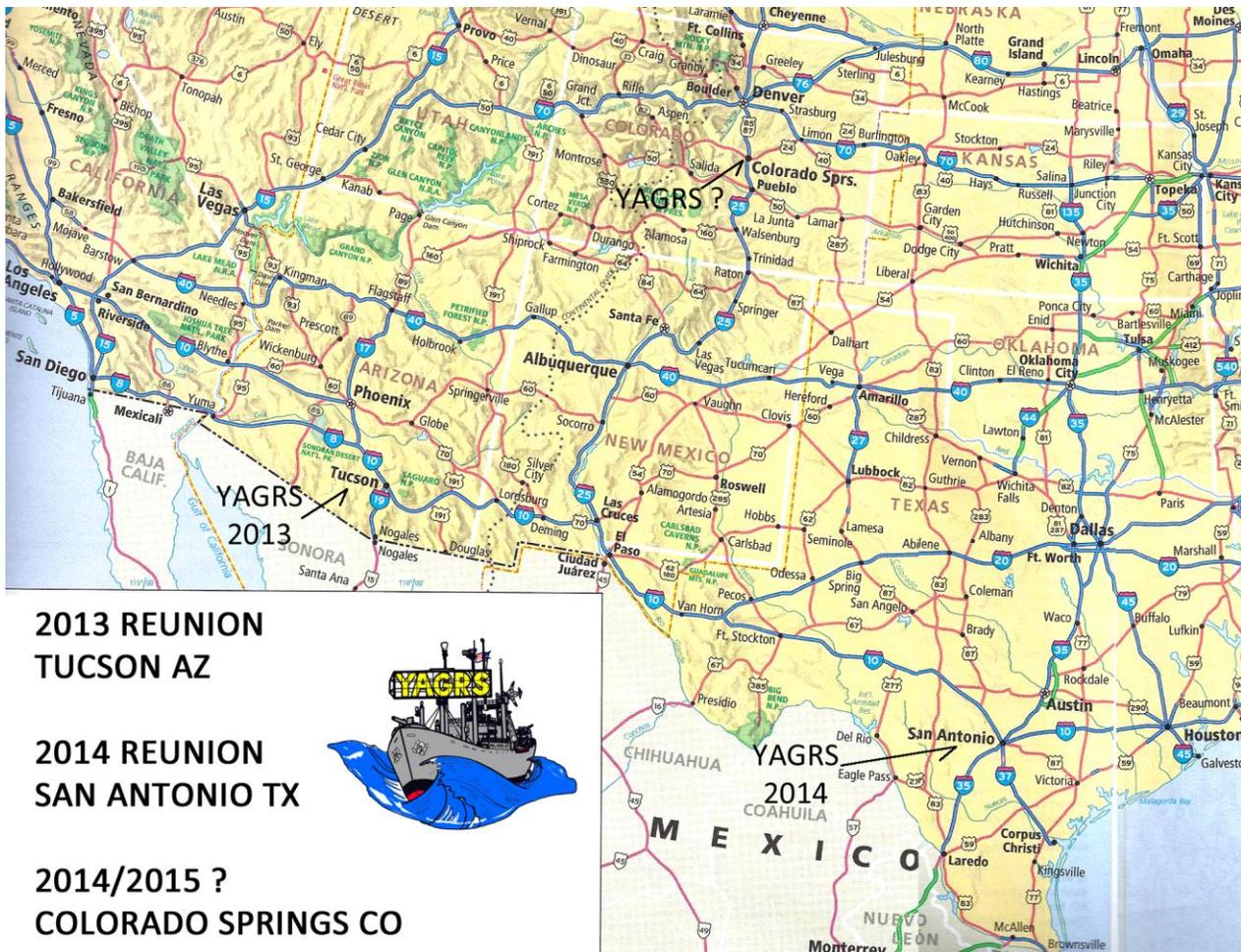
The estimated postage for 2 flannel shirts is approximately \$10. Keep in mind hooded sweat shirts are heavier and would cost more. I asked the ladies to keep the heavy duty plastic bags that they get their mail order clothing in. We can turn them inside out and recycle them. They are lighter weight and will be less expensive to use. Cardboard boxes are heavier and if we use them ,postage will be higher. If anyone is interested in helping the wounded in the time before our next reunion in the Spring they can go to www.SoldiersAngelsGermany.com.

YAGR'S 18th ANNUAL REUNION - TUCSON, ARIZONA

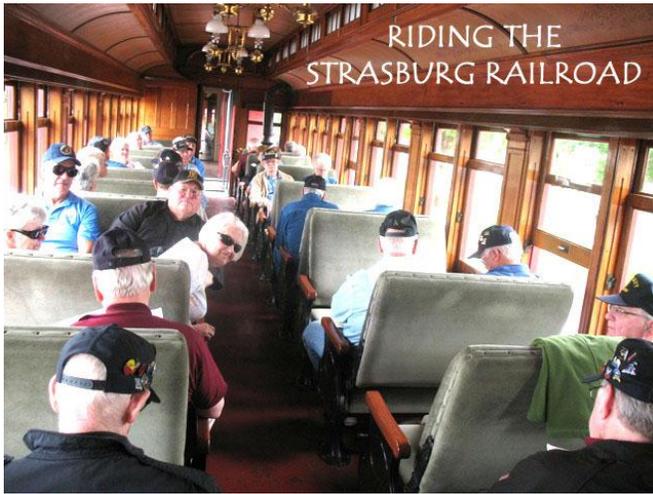
YAGR'S 19th ANNUAL REUNION - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

POSSIBLE REUNION LOCATION - COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

Tucson is served by Tucson International Airport with many convention facilities and attractions near by.



YAGRS 17th ANNUAL REUNION LANCASTER PA



DUES PAYMENT

Dues are \$17 per year. The membership year runs from June 1 - May 31. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your membership is currently paid to. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year. Make checks payable to YAGR'S Association, and mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica, MA 01862.

Name: _____

Ship: _____

amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____ email address: _____