



Lee Doyel, Chairman – yagrs16@cox.net
Armand Lamarche, Treasurer – arlamarche153@gmail.com
Mel Harder, Secretary – mel.harder@snet.net

YAGRGRAM #80 - SUMMER 2018

Lee Doyel, 2315 Bavarian Court, Pensacola FL 32503 (850) 433-6930

view & print this YAGRGRAM in color at <http://www.yagrs.org>

This is the last YAGRGRAM before the reunion in New Orleans. It contains the hotel information, schedule, tour descriptions and registration form. **Registrations must be received by August 15.**

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2018 New Orleans Reunion Hotel

Double Tree New Orleans Airport
2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd
Kenner, LA 70062
phone: 504-467-3111

Dates are:

Tuesday 18 Sep through Saturday 22 Sep,
2018.

Rate Is:

\$112.00 plus 14.75% room tax and includes
breakfast. Good 3 days prior and 3 days post
reunion dates. Free parking and airport shuttle.

For Your Comfort and Convenience

- 24 hr. Pavilion Pantry Market
- Laundry/Valet Service
- Local Area Transportation
- Lounge
- On-Site Convenience Store
- Room Service
- Safety Deposit Box
- Snack Shop

For Your Fitness and Recreation Convenience

- Fitness Room
- Pool



For Your Accessibility Needs

- Accessible exercise facility
- Accessible guest rooms with mobility features with entry or passage doors that provide 32" of clear width
- Accessible hotel restaurant
- Accessible parking
- Accessible registration desk
- Accessible transportation with advance notice
- Public Areas/Facilities accessible for physically challenged
- Service support animals welcome
- Van-accessible parking in the self-parking facility



Reunion Tours

This year's reunion has 3 tours. The first is (Tuesday September 18) a dinner cruise on the paddle wheeler Creole Queen from the pier at the waterfront. We leave the hotel at 4:40 pm and will arrive at the pier 1 hour early to allow members to wander the area, Jackson Square, St Louis Cathedral, French Market, etc.

The second tour is (Wednesday September 19) a dinner theater with a WWII USO style entertainment with the Victory Belles at the WWII Museum. We will leave the hotel at 5:30 pm. No walking except from the bus to the dinner and stage area.

The third tour is (Friday September 21) of the WWII Museum for approximately 4 hours. The museum is quite large and covers several buildings which are connected with covered passageways and elevators. The museum has a limited number of wheel chairs at no cost. They are on a first come first served basis.

Memo from Brian Forrester, YAGR's reunion planner

At one time a post New Orleans reunion cruise was mentioned. Here is the only one that leaves on Sunday, September 23, 2018 which is the next day after the Saturday night reunion banquet. There is no formal YAGRS group going on the cruise. All bookings and payment are up to the individual. The prices are very reasonable. This cruise is the western Caribbean area. I have been on both the eastern & western cruises and I consider the western one the better of the two. Contact Brian Forrester for details and booking. Keep in mind that September is the prime hurricane which may require route adjustment or cancellation.

Itinerary: Roundtrip New Orleans
Cruise Line: Carnival Cruise Line
Ship: Carnival Dream®
Departure: 09/23/2018
Offer ID: CID1704730 map

7-night Western Caribbean
Cruise
from \$469
CRUISE INCLUSIONS
Meals
Entertainment

I have been in the cruise and travel business for over 21 years and feel I offer great knowledge in helping individuals, families and groups find the vacation that will exceed their expectations.

Brian Forrester - Holiday Cruises and Tours of Scottsdale
480-998-1112 or 800-998-1228; Fax: 480-998-3849
Email: brian@hcttravel.com
8502 E. Via De Ventura, Suite 110, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258



**Brian Forrester
YAGR Reunion
planner**

Ladies Reunion Breakfast

Hello YAGR Ladies. Excited about our New Orleans reunion? I know I am.

A few reminders

1. Our contest this year will be a decorated Mardi Gras mask (use your imagination).
2. Remember to bring a small, inexpensive gift for our auction/gift exchange. Homemade gifts are always a hit.
3. As has been our custom the past few years, we will collect donations for a veteran's facility (I am working on that). Things most requested are socks, tee shirts, boxer shorts (not tighty-whities), lounge pants and basketball type shorts in sizes M, L & XLG. Small denomination gift cards (\$10-\$20) to places like McDonalds, Walmart or a prepaid gas card or general gift or charge card. These are given to homeless veterans. A monetary donation is always welcome.

See you all in NO and safe travels to everyone.

God Bless, Pat Reichling
phone: 843-545-0641
email: pareichling@aol.com

Report from Mel Harder, Secretary

Current paid membership is 408. The table to right lists the current membership by hull #. The total by hull # is greater than current membership because many members crewed on more than one ship.

As dues are received by treasurer Armand Lamarche, I update the membership list and send out membership cards and crew lists. Members are removed from the active membership list if dues are more than 2 years in arrears. Crew names are never removed from crew lists. Only current (dues paid) members receive YAGRGRAMS.

Crew lists are updated as I receive changes of address, phone etc. They are sent out for printing once a year. If you want the most current crew list, send me an email at mel.harder@snet.net and I will email back the current crew list.

YAGRGRAMS are currently published three times/year. Print and mailing costs are roughly \$1.00/YAGRGRAM mailed.

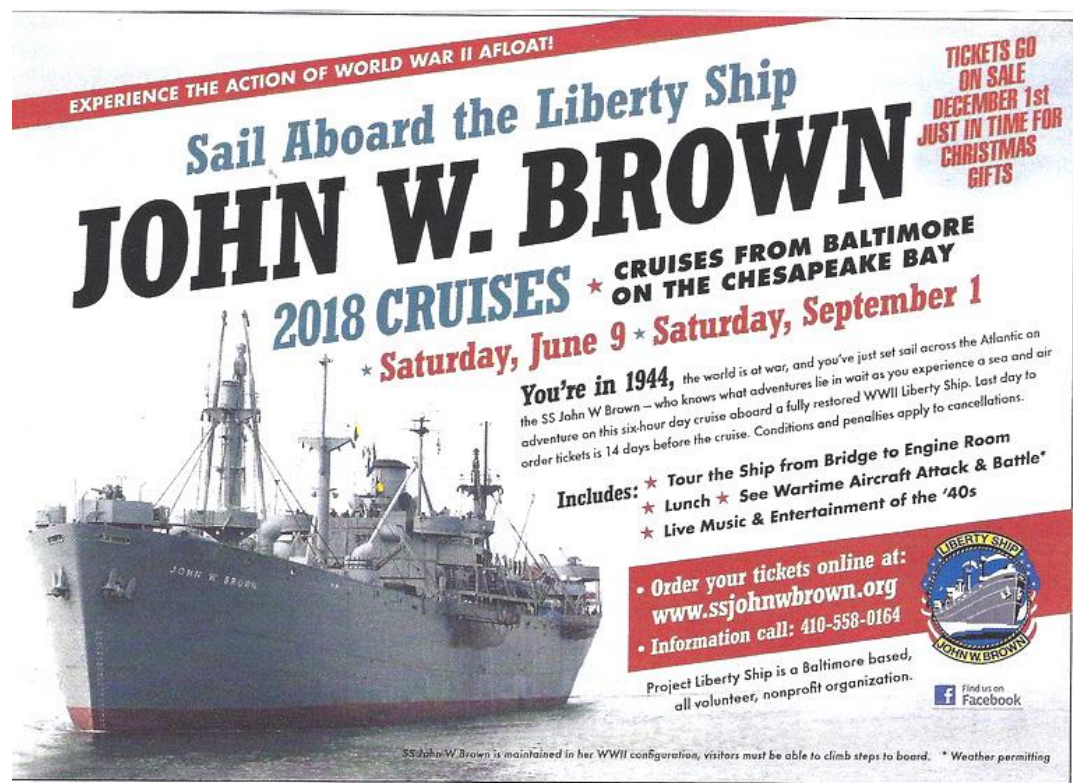
I'm always looking for Sea Stories. Send them to mel.harder@snet.net.

I will not be at the New Orleans reunion, so would appreciate some photos for the post reunion YAGRGRAM.

YAGR Membership as of May 4, 2018		
Hull #	Ship's Name	
AGR-1	USS GUARDIAN	44
AGR-2	USS LOOKOUT	34
AGR-3	USS SKYWATCHER	36
AGR-4	USS SEARCHER	36
AGR-5	USS SCANNER	26
AGR-6	USS LOCATOR	9
AGR-7	USS PICKET	14
AGR-8	USS INTERCEPTOR	24
AGR-9	USS INVESTIGATOR	19
AGR-10	USS OUTPOST	45
AGR-11	USS PROTECTOR	32
AGR-12	USS VIGIL	37
AGR-13	USS INTERDICTOR	11
AGR-14	USS INTERPRETER	10
AGR-15	USS TRACER	31
AGR-16	USS WATCHMAN	17
YR-65	USS YR-65	9
TOTAL		434

A note from lee about The John W. Brown Liberty ship in Maryland

Below is an advertisement for the Liberty Ship, John W Brown home-ported in Baltimore, MD. It is furnished in case any one in the nearby area might want to take a day cruise. YAGRS second reunion was held in Baltimore and a tour of the ship with lunch was part of the reunion activities. There was no cruise as schedules did not coincide. If you can take a cruise, I would recommend it. The YAGRS reunion in San Francisco (2005) include a day cruise aboard the Liberty Ship Jeremiah O'Brian.



EXPERIENCE THE ACTION OF WORLD WAR II AFLOAT!

Sail Aboard the Liberty Ship JOHN W. BROWN

2018 CRUISES ★ **CRUISES FROM BALTIMORE ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY**
★ **Saturday, June 9** ★ **Saturday, September 1**

TICKETS GO ON SALE DECEMBER 1st JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

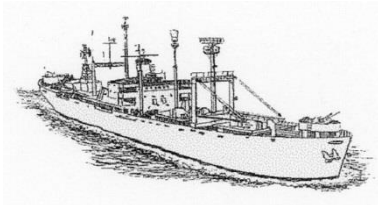
You're in 1944, the world is at war, and you've just set sail across the Atlantic on the SS John W Brown — who knows what adventures lie in wait as you experience a sea and air adventure on this six-hour day cruise aboard a fully restored WWII Liberty Ship. Last day to order tickets is 14 days before the cruise. Conditions and penalties apply to cancellations.

Includes: ★ Tour the Ship from Bridge to Engine Room
★ Lunch ★ See Wartime Aircraft Attack & Battle
★ Live Music & Entertainment of the '40s

• Order your tickets online at: www.ssjohnwbrown.org
• Information call: 410-558-0164

Project Liberty Ship is a Baltimore based, all volunteer, nonprofit organization.

SS John W Brown is maintained in her WWII configuration, visitors must be able to climb steps to board. * Weather permitting



Sea Stories

send your sea stories to mel.harder@snet.net

From Lee Doyes, USS Tracer

One of the benefits of being on a west coast ship was you could recover Japanese fish net balls. They at that time were made of glass. They came in various sizes. Primarily, three; large, medium and small. Pictured is a medium one approximately 10" in diameter. Some were as small as 3 or 4 inches and as large as 16 inches. Most of the ones my ship saw and recovered were 6 to 10 inch size. They became a prized item and a priority list had to be made. The OOD and crew on watch that spotted them usually got first choice. They broke loose from fish nets and the Japanese Current carried them north skirting the Aleutian Islands and down the eastern Pacific through out picket station. When found they had part of the fish net attached and usually moss covered making them hard to spot. Some were broken in the recovery attempt when a metal hook was used to try and hook the net portion. They were usually spotted in calm seas (which was seldom). They are seldom used now days as plastic balls are cheaper and more plentiful.



Terry Thompson (AGR-9, 1958-62)

sent the below story from a Boston, MA newspaper.

SAILORS TELL THEIR STORY



Sailors Terrence Thompson, Clifford Farrinton and Howard Holiday (left to right) members of the crew of a Navy picket boat on which another sailor went berserk in Boston yesterday, tell their story. Fireman XXXXX, 21, was later captured in Providence, RI after a wild chase.

Berserk Sailor Shoots Shipmate

Youth Kidnaps Pair in Attempt To Escape Before Court-Martial

BOSTON, Nov. 18, (UPI)—A full-blooded Indian sailor went berserk aboard the U. S. S. Investigator early today, kidnapped two shipmates, shot one of them and fled in the wounded man's car to Providence, R. I., where he was captured.

The Navy said Machinists Mate Fireman XXXXX, 22, of Poplar, Mont., had been scheduled to stand summary court martial later today for going AWOL.

He was arrested early today in downtown Providence after breaking into a home and fleeing with the owner's civilian clothes.

Victim of the shooting was Ronald Hicks, 19, of Atlanta, Ga, who was shot in the lower right jaw. He was reported recovering after surgery at Chelsea Naval Hospital.

The Navy said XXXXX first whipped out a .22-caliber pistol in the engine room of the ship and threatened to kill shipmate William C. Arlington, 26, Clio, Ala.

"You don't scare me with that gun," Arlington said. XXXXX fired twice close to Arlington's head and ran on deck where he found Chief Petty Officer Robert Brown, St. Joseph, Mo., and Terry L. Thompson, Janesville, Wis., messenger of the watch.

Brown refused to come ashore with XXXXX and the berserk sailor fired into the deck at his feet. Brown still refused. As XXXXX was forcing Thompson ashore at gunpoint, Hicks and Jack M. Ryan, Winchester, Va, another enlisted man, were coming aboard from shore liberty. XXXXX forced Hicks and Ryan into Hicks' car, the Navy said. Thompson broke away and reached the guard at the gate as the car sped by.

When Hicks refused to turn into a one-way street, XXXXX shot him in the jaw, the Navy said. Ryan persuaded him to let them out of the car and took Hicks to the hospital with the aid of police.

Note: XXXX is where I took out individual's name.

These two stories were found on the Sea Stories page of the YAGR website. The website is maintained by Frank Pulaski (USS SEARCHER).

Sent by Don Mc Bride (AGR-11, 1959-60)

This story is passed on as best I remember it; but it goes back to 1960, so some of the details may have changed little over time. But this is how I remember it.

We were on the end of a run up on station 14 I believe. A message was received from an AGR north of us on station 12 that they had a crew member who had "lost it". Since we were going in in a few days, they ask if we would take him in with us. The ship agreed and also agreed to take in mail and swap movies. We rendezvoused half way between stations for a highline transfer. As seemed to be the policy at the time, the meeting took place around 0600 so we were all up at 0400 to get ready.

We "provided" so our crew was spread out down the port side "heaving around". Movies and mail were exchanged and then it was time for the personnel transfer. The weather was calm, just the usual ground swells, so there wasn't too much concern over the transfer. The ships were in constant communication via flashing light. The ship transferring to us said they had the man in a straight jacket and recommended to us we do the same. For safety purposes they would remove him from the straight jacket during the actual transfer in case he went in the water. The group on the receiving end was briefed and was prepared to put the guy in a straight jacket when he hit the deck. These guys made the Green Bay Packers starting line look small.

The chair came up and the man came across without a problem. When he landed on our deck, they pulled out the straight jacket and the fight was on. This guy was not going to put it on. Our guys won after a little wrestling match. As soon as he was subdued, the flashing light came on from the other ship. "Wrong nut. That one is just an officer going on leave." The officer was released and the second personnel transfer was on. This time the guy got out of the chair and held his arms out and put on the straight jacket.

We came home to Davisville a few days later with one calm patient to transfer to Quonset and one Ensign with a black eye to go on leave.

ship's coordinators - **Ship's coordinators maintain an email list** that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator. We still need a coordinator for the USS Picket (AGR-7).

AGR-1 Frank St Mark smarks117@hotmail.com
AGR-2 Ralph Rappuhun rrappuhn@aol.com
AGR-3 Chuck Parker chuckparker@gmail.com
AGR-4 Steve Mierzejewsk stevejackie43@gmail.com
AGR-5 Bob Werstler rdwerst@sbcglobal.net
AGR-6 Lee Doolittle tloedoo@u.washington.edu
AGR-7
AGR-8 Ron Stasiak ronstasiak@rocketmail.com

AGR-9 Frank Mahaffey franknbets@gmail.com
AGR-10 Paul Langenus plangenus@cox.net
AGR-11 George Sleeper gsleeper@roadrunner.com
AGR-12 Jesse Germany jgermany31@gmail.com
AGR-13 Richard Willhite willys55nut@comcast.net
AGR-14 Joe Jackson jacksonj@pldi.net
AGR-15 Lee Doyel mldoyel@cox.net
AGR-16 Frank McNamara ec2sc1@comcast.net

Dues Payment - Mel Harder, secretary - dues are \$17/year

checks to YAGRS ASSOCIATION, mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862

The current membership year ends May 31, 2019. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your current membership expires. If that date is **5/31/18** or earlier, your membership is expired. Please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive an updated membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and mail to Armand Lamarche with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: _____ Ship: _____

Address: _____

amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

AGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

The cost of the books has gone up. The printer I had been using has gone out of business. The new print cost is \$15.35 each and postage (USPS) is \$6.65 for a total of \$22.00.

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER

Mail order is \$22.00 each, that includes postage.

No. Ordered _____ Total Amt. Due _____

Name _____

Address _____

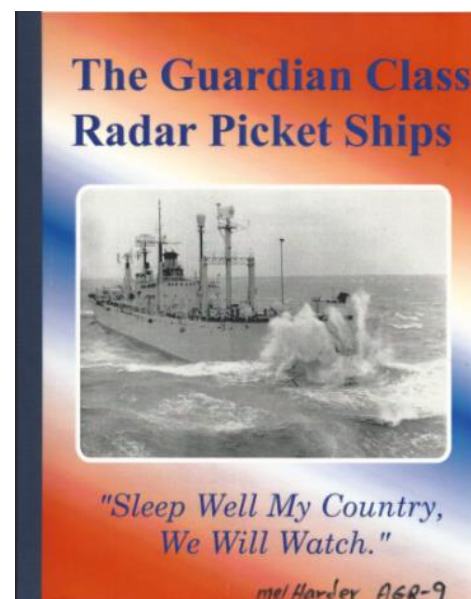
Phone _____

email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



Memo from Lee Doyel

SHIPS PATCHES

As most of you know I have been trying (for over 2 yrs) to get ships patches made. I now have patches for AGR 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,11,12,13,14. I have yet to get AGR 9,10, 15, 16 and RADRON 1 and 2. Those that ordered patches for the ones I have should have received them by now. If not let me know. Those that ordered the ones I do not have, be patient. I know two or three have ordered all 18 patches. I am waiting until I get all 18 before sending them out. Hopefully I will get all the rest by the fall reunion.

If you would like a full color ship's emblems page, send an email to mel.harder@snet.net



Registration Form

YAGR'S 23rd Annual Reunion - New Orleans LA

September 18 - 22, 2018

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible **but no later than August 15, 2018**. Make checks out to YAGR'S. **Mail to YAGR'S treasurer Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862**. Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag. Also, indicate your choice of meat, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____ banquet choice: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ banquet choice: _____

Additional Guest(s) _____ banquet choice: _____

Ship: _____ Contact Phone Number: _____

Reunion Registration: Thurs. Sept. 20 - Sat. Sept. 22			
Includes Fri. tour & Sat. eve banquet	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse or one guest	\$98.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$105.00		\$
Additional Guest (s)	\$105.00		\$
pre-reunion tour - Tues. Sept. 18	cost/person	# of people	total
River Boat Dinner Cruise	\$82.00		\$
names of people on tour			
pre-reunion tours - Wed. Sept. 19	cost/person	# of people	total
USO - Liberty Belles Show	\$90.00		\$
names of people on tour			
total amount due			\$

staying in hotel: yes no
 sharing room: yes no
 if yes, with whom: _____

use a walker: yes no
 use a wheelchair: yes no
 powered chair: yes no
 Hotel room confirmation
 #: _____

email address: _____

special dietary needs: _____

REUNION SHIRTS	# of shirts	X cost/shirt
small @ \$22 each		
medium @ \$22 each		
large @ \$22 each		
X- large @ \$22 each		
XX- large @ \$25 each		
If not attending reunion, add \$5 for shipping		
total for all shirts		