

Phil Hinman (YAGR-3, 1954-56)

While serving aboard the USS Skywatcher (YAGR-3) we had a contest to design the ship's emblem.

My design won. It was an animated drawing of a turtle with a radar antenna on it's back, sleeves rolled up with a white hat. The winning prize was a couple of cartons of sea store cigarettes.

I painted the emblem on a 4' by 8' sheet of metal that was fastened to the ship's stack (I believe that Capt. Anto got in trouble for putting it on the stack. After the sheet metal was welded to the stack, I was elected to touch up the weld spots. We were on station cruising along at about 6 knots on a beautiful calm day. I happened to glance in the distance at something that caught my eye but didn't pay it any attention. Whithin minutes I saw an aircraft just off the water, heading straight amidships. I saw a red emblem and thought it was Russian, but it turned out to be the (new) Canadian red oak leaf. The pilot pulled her up and over the ship and as he banked I saw him thumb his nose at us. The OD was yelling at the lookouts because they didn't see him and our radar didn't pick him up.