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Ray Ostrowski, Treasurer – rayrosie@hotmail.com
Mel Harder, Secretary – mel.harder@snet.net

YAGRGRAM #83 - November 2019

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

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Reunion dates, including pre-reunion tours, are Tuesday, May 19 through Saturday, May 23, 2020.

The hotel is the:

Colorado Springs Marriott
5580 Tech Center Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
800-932-2115
719-260-1707/19-268-4218
Mention YAGRS. Rate code is YAGYAGA

Room rate is \$135.00 a night plus 10.25% room tax. LAST DAY to book a room is Friday, April 3, 2020.

NOTE: This is 6 WEEKS before the reunion dates as compared to the usual 4 weeks. Booking after that at the YAGRS rate is at the hotel's discretion.



Due to the decline in attendance of the last couple of reunions we have only blocked off 40 rooms which is for 80 persons. Since the major expenses for this reunion is being paid by an anonymous benefactor, it may require us to ask for additional rooms. However, it is up to the hotel to expand the block of rooms at its discretion. This may present a problem as Colorado springs is a large tourist attraction and rooms are in great demand, so I cannot EMPHAZISE enough that you should reserve your room as EARLY AS POSSIBLE as it will be FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.



You can reserve a room by phone or by the internet. The internet link was previously sent to the ships coordinators for distribution. If you did not receive it check with me of your ships coordinator.



Although there is no registration or tour fees, a registration form needs to be filled out so we can make out name tags, tour numbers, etc.

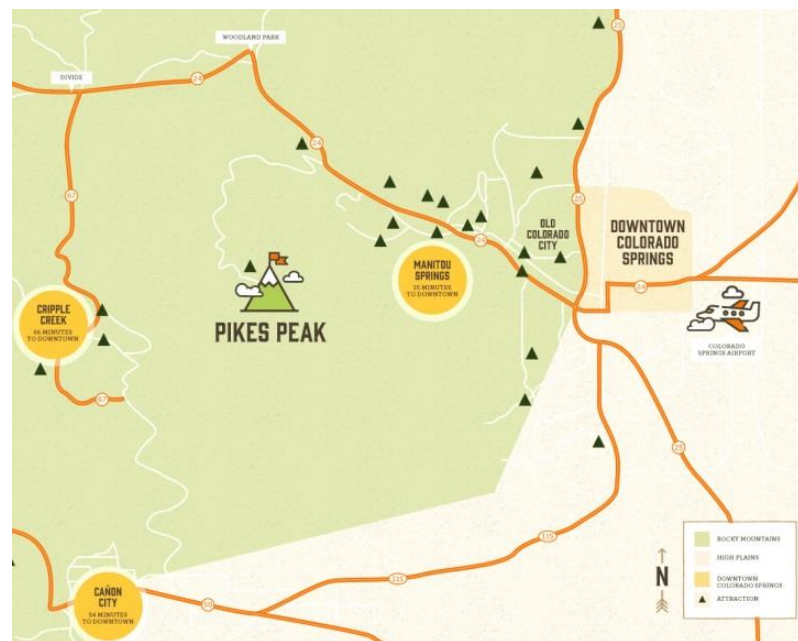
Airport Information

Colorado Springs Airport (COS) - 16 miles from hotel. Hotel does not provide shuttle service.

Alternate transportation: Meet & Greet Colorado Springs - \$50 one way, reservation required (719) 219-9399).

Taxi: Estimated fair \$50 one way.

Denver International Airport (DEN) - 81 miles from hotel.



Tours

Pre-reunion tours: Tues. May 19 - dinner theater

Wed. May 20 - Pikes Peak

Reunion tour: Fri. May 21 - Royal Gorge Train

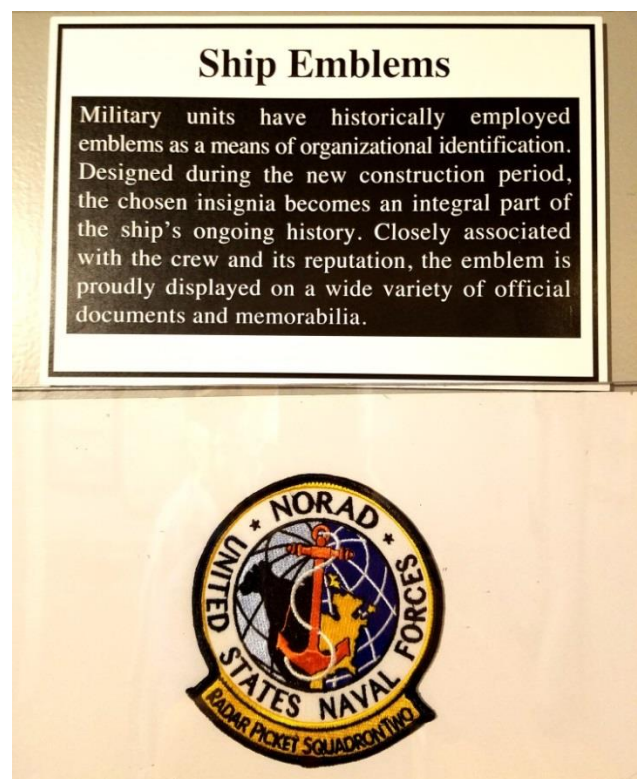


USS Massachusetts

USS Massachusetts – Battle Ship Cove, Fall River MA
location of YAGR'S Association special exhibit project

From: Roland R. Cote
subject: ships patches

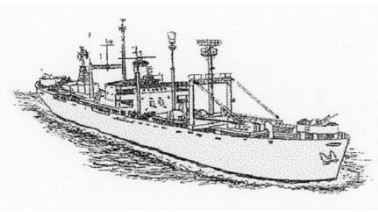
John Hemminger AGR-2 and Roland Cote AGR-10 have completed the installation of the ships patches display in our YAGR museum aboard the Battleship Massachusetts BB-59. A plaque with appropriate information regarding the background of YAGR patches was also installed. As you can see the display case was a tight fit. Bulkhead room has become minimal.



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 tleedoo@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



Sea Stories

email your sea stories and
other correspondence
to mel.harder@snet.net

Subject: A U.S.S. Guardian (AGR-1) Sea Story
Date: Sun, 23 Jun 2019
From: Frederick Muller <ted.muller@att.net>

Gentlemen,

Attached is a personal account of our making it through Hurricane Ella in October 1962 on our way to participating in the Cuban Missile Crisis blockade. It is all true and you may have room for the story as part of the Guardian's history. I proudly served as the Electronics Officer in 1962-1963.

Frederick L. (Ted) Muller, LT, U.S.N.R., 1960-65.

THE HURRICANE BEFORE THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS October 1962

In October 1962 our U.S. Navy ship, the *U.S.S. Guardian*, was ordered by Secret message to proceed southwest on course 225 degrees at best possible speed from our operations in the northern latitudes of the mid-Atlantic, far off the coast of Canada, to take our position in the Naval blockade of Cuba as part of the U.S. response to the Soviet missile threat. We had a problem on the way down: Hurricane Ella with 130 knot winds and horrendous seas. Between North Carolina and Bermuda, she took a rare, if not unique in NOAA's records, turn to the southeast and became stationary instead of proceeding northeast along the usual tracks closer to the U.S. coast. We hit Ella head-on and were subjected to three complete days of 50-foot and higher waves with a periodicity of seconds accompanied by frightening winds.

The ship rolled, pitched and yawed violently as we climbed a wave with the screw lifting out of the water, spinning uncontrollably thus threatening to burn out the bearings and lock up the shaft. Then we sped down the wave's backside and crashed into the oncoming one, burying the bow deep in the water, before lifting again to start all over. The ship would

take repeated 40-degree rolls, teeter on its side shaking for a long minute, testing our faith that we would recover stability for a few moments. That process was repeated for three days. Meanwhile, the ship groaned, and metal twisted, flinging all aboard into bulkheads like ragdolls, causing extreme seasickness for most of the crew and injuring some. At all costs we had to keep the bow straight into the waves, which required a strong seaman at the helm needing frequent relief and a resolute captain and officers-of-the-deck in charge. The 130 knot winds moved around to starboard as the hurricane vortex dictated, thus pushing us to port, constantly making the ship vulnerable to a forced move to a broadside position parallel to the waves. With no way to recover from such a situation, the sea would engulf us and ensure the crew a place in the next world. With the ship completely buttoned-up for watertight integrity, the internal temperature was over an oppressive 100 degrees and the fuel oil stench was sickening and pervasive.



A friend aptly described an angry sea as "primal chaos". We thought the fist of God had descended upon us with no escape possible. Over 150 souls on our ship met God face-to-face in those 72 hours of unmitigated terror never thinking there was much chance for survival. One of the ship's 15 officers at age 24, I had to appear to be far braver than I was as Officer-Of-The-Deck in performing my leadership duties when the captain was not on the bridge. No one slept, showered or ate much at all. Yet, all hands, with few exceptions, kept their poise, functioned admirably and performed dangerous tasks under punishing stress. I learned what the word teammates meant in its full dimensions and how dependent we were on one another.

But we did make it. That encounter with nature at its most violent brought into grave focus the fragility of

life not only for me personally but also for the crew members. Contemplating an unknown fate from possible nuclear annihilation of family and many Americans, we proceeded to our station in the blockade with fellow Navy ships of the Second Fleet. Our orders were to aggressively contest and hound the oncoming Soviet surface ships and submarines, but not attack with live weapons. Our commanders and President Kennedy's team in the White House did not know the Soviet submarines were armed with nuclear torpedoes at the time and the U.S. only learned about it when we and the U.S.S.R. jointly declassified our respective records of the Cuban Missile Crisis, simultaneously, in the late 1980's. Why the Soviet submarine captains, under continuous harassment by our ships, did not fire their torpedoes to surely ignite nuclear war was an act of courage on

their part almost beyond comprehension. A perfect example of an unknown risk in the fog of war. As well-publicized in the media accounts right after the encounter, we asserted that the Soviets "blinked first" and a nuclear holocaust was averted. Two weeks later we returned to homeport in Newport for a few days of rest and ship repairs before heading out to the North Atlantic again.

By the grace of God, the World and the *Guardian* escaped a close encounter with Armageddon!

*Frederick L. (Ted) Muller, LT, U.S. Navy, 1960-65
6-16-2019*

Dues Payment Form - dues are \$17/year

Make checks out to YAGRS. Mail to:

Ray Ostrowski, Treasurer

123 Barbara Dr., Newburg NY 12550

Ray can also be reached at: e-mail: rayrosie@hotmail.com

phone: 845-565-6243 cell: 845-245-5707

Current membership year ends May 31, 2020. Highlighted date on address label is the date your current membership expires. If that date is **5/31/19** or earlier, 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 Ray Ostrowski with dues payment.. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: _____ Ship: _____

Address: _____

amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

Cost is \$22.00 each including postage.

No. Ordered _____ Total Amt. Due _____

Name _____

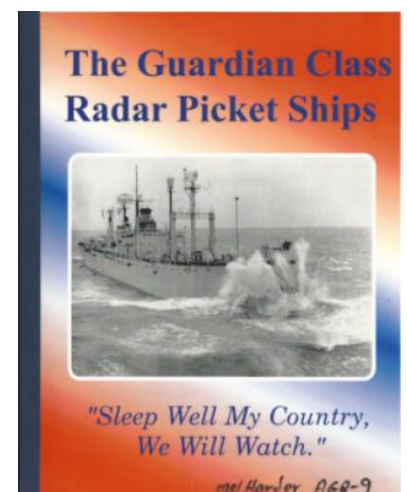
Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

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

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



A generous donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, has covered registration and tour costs for this reunion
You must still complete and send the registration form to YAGR treasurer Ray Ostrowski no later than April 15

REGISTRATION FORM - YAGR'S 24th annual reunion

Colorado Springs, CO. May 19 - May 23, 2020

Return completed registration form as soon as possible but no later than April 15, 2020. Mail to YAGR'S treasurer Ray Ostrowski, 123 Barbara Drive, Newburgh, NY 12550. 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 _____

REGISTRATION IS AT NO COST - INCLUDES BANQUET DINNER AND TOURS

PRE REUNION TOUR TUES MAY 19	COST/ PERSON	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
DINNER THEATER	\$0.00		\$0.00
NAMES OF PEOPLE FOR TOUR -BUS LEAVES at 5:30 PM			
PRE REUNION TOUR WED. MAY 20	COST/ PERSON	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
PIKES PEAK	\$0.00		\$0.00
NAMES OF PEOPLE FOR TOUR -BUS LEAVES AT 11 AM			
REUNION TOUR FRI MAY 22	COST/ PERSON	# OF PEOPLE	TOTAL
ROYAL GORGE TRAIN	\$0.00		\$0.00
NAMES OF PEOPLE FOR TOUR -BUS LEAVES AT 11 AM			
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	\$0.00		

Staying in hotel	yes	no	REUNION SHIRTS	# of shirts	tot cost
sharing room	yes	no	small @ \$20 ea	_____	_____
if yes with whom _____			medium @ \$20 ea	_____	_____
use a walker	yes	no	large @ \$20 ea	_____	_____
use a wheelchair	yes	no	x-large @ \$20 ea	_____	_____
powered chair	yes	no	xx-large @ \$20 ea	_____	_____
hotel room conf. # _____			if not attending reunion		
email address _____			add \$5.00 shipping		_____
special dietary needs _____			total for all shirts		_____