



USS GUARDIAN	AGR-1	USS INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9
USS LOOKOUT	AGR-2	USS OUTPOST	AGR-10
USS SKYWATCHER	AGR-3	USS PROTECTOR	AGR-11
USS SEARCHER	AGR-4	USS VIGIL	AGR-12
USS SCANNER	AGR-5	USS INTERDICTOR	AGR-13
USS LOCATOR	AGR-6	USS INTERPRETER	AGR-14
USS PICKET	AGR-7	USS TRACER	AGR-15*
USS INTERCEPTOR	AGR-8	USS WATCHMAN	AGR-16
USS	YR-23	USS	YR-65
		*USS INTERRUPTER	AGR-15

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<http://members.tripod.com/~YAGRS/index.html>

YAGRGRAM #11 February 10, 1999

Norfolk In 1999

As you know by now, YAGRS will be holding its fourth reunion in Norfolk, VA on June 3,4,5 of 1999. Our host hotel will be the Hilton Norfolk Airport, 1500 North Military Highway, Norfolk, VA 23502. To make your reservations, you can call the hotel at 800-422-7474. Let them know that you are with the YAGRS reunion to receive our special room rate of \$72.00 per night. To those of you who will be driving in, there is free parking at the hotel. For those of you who will be flying in, the Hotel has a shuttle that runs from the airport to the hotel. More information will follow in the next YAGRGRAM on the schedule of this shuttle.

YAGRS has 150 rooms set aside for our use. Hopefully this will be enough, but I urge you to make your reservations as soon as possible so that I can get more rooms if needed. At the present time we are expecting 150 crewmen; and with wives/guests we should have around 250 to 300 people at this year's reunion. With the large number of former YAGRMEN who live in the Norfolk area, these numbers are a wild guess. At the other reunion sites I had a pretty good handle on how many were going to be staying at the hotel, but this one has me stumped. I might note that at the last reunion, some of the men who lived in the area wished they had stayed at the hotel for the duration of the reunion. During our stay, a lot of socializing goes on at the hotel, and this is what these reunions are all about. As in the past, we will have a

Hospitality Room which we will keep open as much as possible. Snacks and drinks will be available while the room is open. **Thursday** will be for checking in and getting settled. **Friday** we will have our tour. Our tour this year will include MacArthur Memorial, a riding tour of Norfolk and the Norfolk Naval Base, with lunch at Breezy Point Officer's Club. **Saturday** we will hold our meeting in the morning. While we are holding our meeting, our wives/guests will have their breakfast. Saturday night we will hold our banquet. The wives/guests are asked to bring a small item to be raffled off at the penny social. The cost should not exceed \$5.00 and handcrafted items are most welcome. Also, the wives/guests are reminded that a unique hat contest will be held this year.

The reunion fee this year will be \$65.00 per person.

A registration form is enclosed. Please get it back to me as soon as possible. This will help me know how many rooms will be needed. Please make your checks out to YAGRS.

Pre-Reunion Tour

This year I have made arrangements to have a separate tour for those of you who arrive early. Marjorie Phillips Tours will conduct a tour on Wednesday, June 2, to Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown Island. I have enclosed the early bird registration form. **This tour is not part of the official YAGRS Reunion and is not included in your \$65.00 registration fee.** This is the same company that will be doing our tour on Friday.

REUNION 2000

We will decide where the reunion will be held in the year 2000 at the Norfolk reunion. As I said in the last YAGRGRAM we hope to be moving west, hopefully somewhere in mid-America. But this location will be determined by those attending the Norfolk reunion. So if you have any suggestions, please bring them with you to Norfolk.

OnGoing Projects

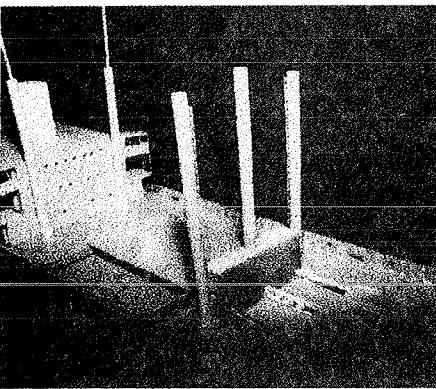
The Model Ship

The building of the model is moving right along. Bill Simcox (AGR-4 1960-61) says that he is on schedule for having the model ready to be displayed at our upcoming reunion in June.



These pictures are two of the many that

Bill has sent. I think they show the progress he is making. In talking with Bill I am under the impression that he is really enjoying this project that he took on.



To date we have raised \$1,738.45 of the \$2,500.00 needed for the model and display that will be on the USS Yorktown (CV-10). We could not do this without your donations. If

you would like to

make a donation, even if it is a dollar or two, please send it to me. Make your checks out to YAGRS.

YAGRS Book

The book that we are in the process of putting together has not made as much progress as the model. Right now we are almost at a standstill. While we are receiving some information, it is trickling in. Although we are very close to having enough, we are lacking some important data, especially for RADRON ONE and the West coast ships. Once again I want to ask you to look through all your old papers. You might be surprised at what you find. Nothing is unimportant. If it has to do with the ships or the squadrons, send it in.

The Hunt Goes On

Since the last YAGRGRAM another 48 former crewmen have been located. We now have 999 men who have been in contact with us. I was hoping to have reached the 1,000 mark by this time, but the holidays slowed the search somewhat. Now that we are past the holidays I hope to get back on track locating former crewmen. Again, if you know of anyone who served on any of the 16 ships, the two YR's or the staff of RADRON ONE or RADRON TWO, tell them that we are trying to find them.

I do have some success with the names sent to me; but without the person's full name it is hard for me to find them. I do try to locate everyone whose name is sent to me.

DUES

It is most important that dues are paid to keep YAGRS going. With the mailing at almost 1,000 people, each YAGRGRAM is a huge drain on the bank account. I do not want to start a mass cutting in our mailings, but it is a possibility in the near future. Along with the mailing expenses, there are phone bills, office supplies, copying costs and numerous other things.

If you have paid your dues and haven't received your membership card, get in touch with me.

Support YAGRS by paying your dues!!!

YAGRS Web Page

To date 2,682 visits have been made to our web page. Also other pages are linking to our page. This will help more people find us. Since the last YAGRGRAM, 7 more former crewmen have located us through these pages.

I have added some new information recently. The USS Guardian AGR-1 page has more information included on her. A new section called the Boxed Aircraft Ships with a picture of the USS Interceptor AGR-8 as she appeared when she was the SS Edward W. Burton is being shown. I might add that I received this picture from William F. Hultgren who is a Maritime Historian and Collector. Also a links page with a picture of the USS Vigil AGR-12 has been added. This page mostly has links to DER's. There's also a link to a web page for the USS Watchman AGR-16. This page was started by Frank McNamara (AGR-16 1961-64)

More information will be added as time allows.

Where Is The Skunk

What happened to the skunk? This question has just ne up. The USS Locator AGR-6 had two mascots - a skunk and a dog. In fact the skunk was even shown on the Ship's Emblem. Does anyone know what happened to it or to the dog? If you do, pass it along and I will make sure that it gets in the next YAGRGRAM. If you have any questions that you would like to have published in the YAGRGRAM, send them in and I will put them in as space allows.

Change of Address

It seems that a lot of us are on the move. I know there are a million and one things to do when you move. Please remember to send me your new address along with your phone number.

Cold War Recognition

This may be of interest to some of you. It was passed on to me by Norman Atwater (AGR-5 1963-65)

In accordance with Section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government and civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era. **Requests will be accepted beginning April 5, 1999.**

Who is eligible? All members of the armed forces and federal government and civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

Acceptable documents for proof of service for Military.

1. DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty) 2. WD AGO (Form 53-55 War Department Separation Document) 3. Oath of Office - Military Personnel or Letter of Appointment.

Military Personnel may obtain a DD Form 214 by written application to:

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Send your request as a letter. Requests must contain enough information to identify the record among the more than 70 million on file at NPRC(MPR). Certain basic

information is needed to locate military service records. This information includes the veteran's complete name used while in service, service number or social security number, branch of service, and dates of service. Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known.

A request letter (SF 180)) for the Cold War Recognition will be **available April 5, 1999** by the following means:

1. Contact the National Archives and Records Administration's Fax-on-Demand System. The Fax on demand system makes brochures, informational sheets, and other documents available to Federal agencies and the members of the public who have access to fax machines. The SF 180 is available as document number 2259.

NOTE: You must call the system from a fax machine (using the handset) in order to receive documents. Voice instructions will guide you. There is no charge for this service except for any long distance telephone charges you may incur. The phone number to access the fax-on-demand system is (301) 713-6905.

2. Call the NPRC(MPR) telephone information lines. Callers can leave the name and address to which they want the SF 180 sent. (314) 538-4141

3. Write to the National Personnel Records Center at the above address.

I will keep you up-dated on this as I get more information.

Sea Stories

Sent by **Jay Kacena (AGR-6 1958-61)**

Bad Weather "Now hear this! The weather deck is secured until further notice due to inclement weather." Inclement weather? THAT was an understatement. As Engineering log room yeoman, I had been watching the degree of rolling and pitching indicated by that "thing on the wall" in the Engineering office. (I know there's a proper name for that device but damned if I can think of it now!) Anyway, I haven't forgotten seeing the scale roll over to a point where the bubble indicated a roll to starboard of 42 degrees! Yikes, I thought. If this thing is going over, I think I'd rather be outside than in! And that was before I saw Titanic! The idea of a trip through shaft

Alley and up the ladder to after steering was born at lunch that day. Naturally, weather was the topic of discussion and Mac told us that he had the stern watch. I don't think he was looking forward to four hours alone at the stern and suggested that it should be a dynamite spot from which to view the high seas for anyone willing to keep him company. Of course, since the weather deck was secured, the shaft alley was the only legal access. Anyone who has climbed that ladder knows it's not an exercise you do for the fun of it; but after witnessing the 42 degree roll, I was inspired. Mac was right to suggest that the up-close-and-personal view of our picket station from the door at aft steering was quite spectacular.

I'm sure he can tell you it was even more spectacular from the fantail itself as he discovered shortly after my arrival. Mac got a call from the bridge instructing him to go out to the fantail and make sure the stern light was lit. I remember that he balked at the idea and was threatened with being placed on report if he refused further. So, out he went.

No sooner had he disappeared around the corner when I felt LOCATOR'S bow dive in to a deep trough. On the fantail, of course. We were high and dry (and I do mean high). You know what happens next: the bow goes up and the stern goes down (and I do mean DOWN). In fact in this case, it went UNDER. Now I know that many will think this impossible but you can bet that Ralph Mc Allister will bear me out. We dropped like a rock.

Fearing for his life, I stepped out of the door just in time to see him down on one knee at the aft rail. He was facing forward, left hand on the rail, right hand clutching his white hat. Water was pouring, I swear, a foot or more over his head. The fantail was UNDER WATER! At this, helmets were washed out of the racks in which they had been stored and were floating everywhere. Of course, we were on our way back "up" by the time he scrambled to the door and safety. Needless to say, old Mac was one scared deck-ape while I had only one wet foot for having stepped out the door.

Was the light on? I don't recall his report to the bridge but I will say this for the guy: he stayed on with Uncle Sam, to retire as a Chief Petty Officer in spite of the experience. I, on the other hand, got out and have been selling insurance ever since!

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.

**Remember To Send In Your
Reunion Registration As Soon
As Possible!!**

Ships Store
(Items for sale)

I will again be ordering hats. If you want one, the cost is \$14.50, which includes postage. Send me your name, ship wanted and how many hats you want along with your check made out to YAGRS. PLEASE GET YOUR ORDER TO ME BY **March 10, 1999.**

Ships emblems (logo): All are approx 4 1/2" diameter printed on 8 1/2" X 11" glossy paper
AGR-1 Thru AGR-16
YAGR 2,3,5,6,7,8,9, and 10
YAGR DIV. 21
RADRON ONE
RADRON TWO-----\$3.50 ea.

Silhouette drawing of ship : Appox. 9 1/2" long, printed on 8 1/2" x 11" glossy paper-----\$3.50 ea.

Pin for hat/lapel: 3/4" diameter with logo of YAGRS in color-----\$4.25 ea.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. MAKE CHECKS OUT TO YAGRS

If you have ordered a hat, emblem or pin and have not yet received it, let me know.

YAGRS

4th Annual Reunion

Norfolk, VA

June 3,4,5, 1999

REUNION REGISTRATION

\$65.00 PER PERSON

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THEN MAY 1, 1999

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Name of spouse/guest _____

Ship served on _____ **Date on board** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____

Ship served on _____ **Date on board** _____ **Rank/Rate** _____

Number of people attending _____ **X \$65.00 =** _____ **Enclosed**

Make all checks payable to YAGRS

This information will be used for your name tags. Use the name you want printed on your name tag.

OPTIONAL EARLY BIRD TOUR , YAGRS REUNION, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1999
Presented by Marjorie Phillips Tours

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW & JAMESTOWN ISLAND

8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Depart via motor coach for the charming town of Williamsburg. Your guide will provide interesting and informative narration during your ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Hampton Roads area. Once you arrive in Williamsburg, you will step back into the 18th century while strolling through the streets of Colonial Williamsburg. Your historical interpreter will guide you through the past and the events that helped shape America's history as you enjoy a one and one half hour *leisurely* walking tour through the restored area of this lovely colonial capital city (Actual distance is approximately 4-5 blocks). Following your overview tour, enjoy free time to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture and holiday decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area. Enjoy lunch on your own in one of the Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. Your guide will point out all of the dining options as you pass through town. Next, board the bus and admire the view as you ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to Jamestown Island, original site of the first permanent English settlement in America in 1607. Exhibits include ruins of the 17th century settlement and a Visitors Center with a 15 minute film, museum and gift shop. Also on display at this time are recent archeological finds, including the 400 year old skeletal remains of one of the first settlers. Archeological digs are ongoing and open for daily observation.

Package Price: \$29.00 per person, inclusive.

Tour will depart from the Norfolk Airport Hilton Hotel. Boarding time will begin at 8:15 am. Package price includes motor coach, tour guide services, admission fees and taxes. Tour is designed for minimal walking. Full payment must be submitted no later than May 12, 1999. No refunds after May 26, 1999. EARLY REGISTRATION IS ADVISED. Tickets will be held in your name at the YAGRS registration desk, these tickets must be presented upon boarding the bus. Your cancelled check is your receipt. If the tour does not meet the minimum number of thirty people, it will be cancelled. Please direct any questions to Marjorie Phillips Tours at (757)440-0202, or toll free 1(877)440-0202, 9am – 5:00 pm EST.

(Please retain this portion for future reference)

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**EARLY BIRD TOUR REGISTRATION FORM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1999 YAGRS REUNION**

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____

	Number	Total
Williamsburg/Jamestown Tour		
Wednesday, June 2, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm	_____	_____
		@\$29.00 ea.

Mail this form with your check or money order to:
MARJORIE PHILLIPS TOURS
6132 SYLVAN STREET, NORFOLK, VA 23508
PHONE: (757)440-0202 FAX: (757)423-0245

