

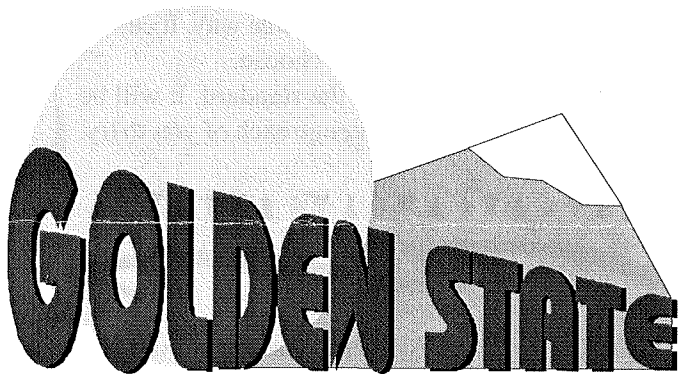


Radars Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #17

Summer 2000

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California Here We Come!!!!!!!

YAGR'S will be holding its 6th annual reunion in San Diego, CA.

The vote taken in Minneapolis selected San Diego, CA as our next reunion city by a wide margin. Mike NeSmith (AGR-9, 1964-65), who will be doing the leg work, offered San Diego as the host city.

At the present time the dates are not set. Most likely it will be in the same time frame as our preceding 5 reunions, that is, the end of May or the beginning of June. Also the hotel has not yet been selected, but as soon as we get the information it will be passed on to you.

Minneapolis Reunion

108 former crewmen and 88 guests attended this year's reunion. These 108 men represented former crewmen from 15 ships, RADRON TWO, YR-23 and YR-65.

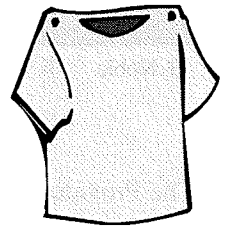
A pre-reunion tour was held on **Wednesday** May 31 and we had a good turnout with 39 people who took this tour. **Thursday** our hospitality room had a good work out, with reunion registration and the greeting of old friends. The hospitality room was never empty the whole weekend. **Friday** we all departed the hotel for our group tour on a riverboat with lunch on board. **Saturday** we held our business meeting while our spouses/guests enjoyed their buffet breakfast and tee shirt contest. That night we held our farewell banquet.

During the business meeting we held the drawing for the 50/50 raffle (\$1,638.00 worth of tickets were sold). Michael Smith (AGR-12, 1961-63) was the lucky one whose number was picked. He received \$819.00 as his share of the raffle.

We also raffled off a 3 night stay at the hotel, which was won by Larry Dallam (AGR-1, 1955-57).

A vote was taken that we plan our reunion locations 2 years in advance and this was approved. The location that was selected for the 2002 reunion was the Providence, RI area.

Meanwhile the spouses/guests had their buffet breakfast and tee shirt contest. The winner of this contest was Judy Bosnengo, whose husband Gino served on the Guardian AGR-1 from 1963-1965.



A Special Thanks

TO

Mike Smith

(AGR-12, 1961-63)

A thank you goes to Mike Smith (AGR-12, 1961-63) who was our 50/50 raffle winner. He, along with his wife Lucille, saw me Saturday afternoon and told me that they wanted to donate something to the Battleship Massachusetts exhibit. They told me that they were giving \$419.00 to YAGR'S for our exhibit. I accepted their very generous donation on behalf of YAGR'S. Again, thank you Mike and Lucille.

50/50 Raffle

The 50/50 raffle was a great success thanks to all of you who bought tickets. As you all know this was the first year we did anything like this. The sole purpose was to raise funds for the exhibit that we are building on the Battleship Massachusetts in Fall River, MA. I want to thank everyone who bought tickets. Without you it would never have been a success.

Re-Enlisting

Mike NeSmith (AGR-9, 1964-65) reenlisted at our Saturday night banquet. Mike requested that this ceremonial occasion be held at our reunion. We then decided that the best time would be at the banquet.

In preparation for this we asked the two former commanding officers (Guy "Rusty" Noble, AGR-11, 1960-62) (Albert R. Reid, AGR-15, 1961-64) who were at the reunion to officiate at the swearing in ceremony. Also included was Frederick "Fred" Peterson (AGR-11, 1960-62) who acted as the witness.

YAGR'S wishes to thank Mike for allowing us to be part of this important milestone in his life. We also wish him the best of luck in his military career.



G. Noble F. Peterson A. Reid M. NeSmith

Providence, RI

The Providence, RI area was selected as our 2002 reunion site. At this time we plan to have the official opening of the YAGR'S exhibit on board the USS Massachusetts.

Naturally the dates and host hotel information are not available at this time. You will be kept updated on our progress.

Hotel Rooms

While our next reunion is way off in the future, I thought that I would say something about making your hotel reservations. At the Minneapolis reunion we had people put up in another hotel for a time. Luckily the Hilton had some cancellations and this opened up some extra rooms for us. When we plan the reunions we tell the hotel approximately how many rooms we will need. If we see that the turnout is going to be larger than we anticipated, we can have more rooms set aside for our use if we have enough lead time. So, as soon as we publish the reunion hotel, reserve your room if you think you will be going to the reunion. You can always cancel your reservation if you find you cannot attend.

Well Done!

A well done goes to Dave Johnson (AGR-11, 1962-64), his wife Judi, John Morrison (AGR-11, 1958-60) and his wife Lois for their help with this year's reunion.

As anyone who has ever put together a reunion knows, it takes a lot of behind the scenes work to have a successful time. So a thank you goes out to them for their help!

To The Ladies:

Thanks to all of you for your suggestions regarding the spouse's breakfast. I have spoke to many of the women in Minneapolis, and the consensus is that we keep the breakfast buffet. Many people enjoy a full breakfast. Those who don't can take what they like.

We will have a tee shirt contest again in San Diego. (Tee shirts are so easy to pack.) Please have it represent your home state in some way. It can be as crazy or as serious as you choose.

Judy Bosnengo has set the standard. It will be tough to beat her but I challenge each of you to try.



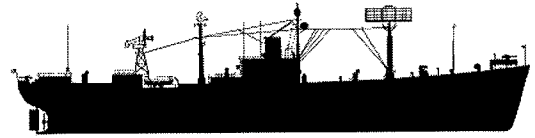
On board the riverboat Avalon, at the start of our Friday tour.



A couple of the 28 tables at our Saturday night banquet



YAGR'S Exhibit



There was no on-board work done on the Massachusetts since the Yaggram was sent out. But this does not mean that nothing is happening for our exhibit.

First of all we have completed and have in our possession 16 of the 20 signs that will be part of the exhibit. These 16 signs, (one for each ship) show the ships emblem/emblems along with a brief history of the ship. This history includes all significant dates in the history of the ship, both civilian and Naval. We are working on the other 4 signs at this time.

Other off - ship work is the selection of the lighting for the displays. While checking this out we have found that the possibilities are almost endless. Having narrowed our options for the lighting fixtures down somewhat, we hope to make the final selection very soon.

The subject of painting the compartment was brought up at the reunion. It was reported that we have such a large space, and with the overhead going anywhere from a little over 6 feet to over 15 feet high, it will be tough for us to do the painting ourselves. A vote was taken by those in attendance at the meeting to have an outside source do the painting.

At this time the plans are for the painters that work on-board the ship to do the painting of our compartment. The painting most likely will start in September.

But before they start we (YAGR'S) have more work ahead of us. There are a few more stanchions that have to be burned off along with the grinding off of welds and other protusions on the deck. We also have to erect bulkheads to hold our displays.

It has been brought to my attention that people have been going to the Battleship and trying to gain access to our exhibit and/or trying to drop off items for the exhibit. As mentioned above, our exhibit is no where near ready to be viewed. If you have anything you might want to donate, please get in touch with me. At the present time the ship will not allow anyone to go into our exhibit area for obvious safety concerns.

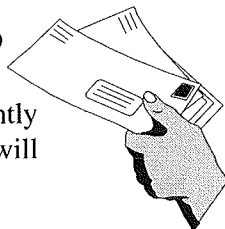
At this time we are still looking for the following items for the exhibit.

- Shoulder Patches (Ship Names)
- Cigarette Lighters
- Pictures that show the ships in rough seas or covered with ice



Planning A Move ?

If you are planning to move or have just recently moved, remember to tell us. This way we will not lose track of one another.



Ship Emblems (Logos)

Recently YAGR'S located another ship's emblem that we did not have. The emblem is for the USS Vigil YAGR-12. It was located too late to have it shown on the signage that will be displayed on the Massachusetts so at some point in time we will have to figure out a way to have it included.

At this time we have located the following emblems,

USS Lookout	YAGR-2	USS Guardian	AGR-1
USS Skywatcher	YAGR-3	USS lookout	AGR-2
USS Scanner	YAGR-5	USS Skywatcher	AGR-3
USS Locator	YAGR-6	USS Searcher	AGR-4
USS Picket	YAGR-7	USS Scanner	AGR-5
USS Interceptor	YAGR-8	USS Locator	AGR-6
USS Investigator	YAGR-9	USS Picket	AGR-7
USS Outpost	YAGR-10	USS Interceptor	AGR-8
USS Vigil	YAGR-12	USS Investigator	AGR-9
		USS Outpost	AGR-10
		USS Protector	AGR-11
		USS Vigil	AGR-12
		USS Interdictor	AGR-13
		USS Interpreter	AGR-14
		USS Tracer	AGR-15
		USS Watchman	AGR-16

YAGR DIVISION 21, RADRON ONE, RADRON TWO.

If you have anything, (patch, picture, letterhead, etc.) that shows any emblem that is not listed, please get in touch with me.

YAGR or AGR

Why two different hull types?

In 1955 when the first Radar Picket Ship, the USS Guardian, was commissioned in Norfolk, VA she was commissioned as a YAGR (Ocean Station Radar Ship). As most of you know, the first letter Y signifies that the vessel is a service craft or more commonly referred to as a yard craft. (How anybody in their right mind could think that a ship that spends up to 275 days a year at sea could be considered a yard craft is beyond me.) She and her sister ships held this YAGR classification until September 28, 1958. At that time they were reclassified as an AGR (Radar Picket Ship).

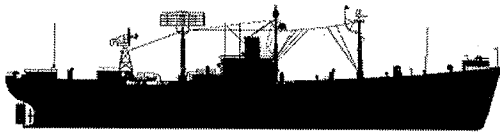
Also on this date, YAGR DIVISION 11 (west coast) and YAGR DIVISION 21 (east coast) were changed to RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO respectively.

And Then There Was One.

To update you on the USS Tracer AGR-15. I received word that she will be moved from St. Paul Island, AK. As of June 18 she will be taken in tow for transit to Shanghai, China to be scrapped. It is expected to take approximately 30 days to reach China.

Mr. Jimmy Chen, the person who passed this information along to me, said that he would try to get some pictures to me. When I receive them I will post them in the YAGRGRAM.

So at this time the USS Protector AGR-11, is the only Radar Picket Ship afloat. The Protector is in Norfolk, VA the last that I heard having her main engine removed. To the former picket ship sailors that live in the Norfolk area, any information you can get to me will be a great help.



YAGR'S Still Growing

1,364 Located

YAGR'S is still growing. In the past year we have located 279 former crewmen, 36 of them since the last YAGRGRAM went out in April.

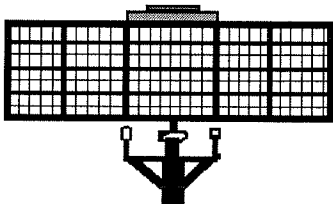
If you have any information on any former crewmen, please get it to me and I'll try to locate them. If you know of someone, get in touch with them and let them know that an organization has been formed for the Radar Picket Ships.

Dues

Dues are now being collected for the new year. YAGR'S year for dues purposes runs from June 1, 2000 to May 31, 2001. If you have not paid your dues, please do so. They are what keeps the organization running.

To figure out if you have paid your dues for this year, look on the mailing label on the envelope that this YAGRGRAM came in. If you see a date such as 5/31/01 above your name this means that your dues are paid until May 31, 2001.

If you have paid your dues and have not received your membership card or you do not see a date on the envelope, get in touch with me so we can correct it.



Ships Store

Hats _____ x \$16.00 each = _____ Enclosed \$ _____

Name of ship/ships _____

NOTE: This may be the last time we will be ordering hats from this company. It will be going out of business at the end of the year. We are trying to locate another company that will be able to offer us the same high quality hats at a decent price.

All hat orders must reach me by August 7, 2000.

Travel mugs _____ X \$10.00 each = \$ _____ Enclosed \$ _____

These 12oz coffee travel mugs with tops are a pearlized tan color with a black top. Cups have the YAGR'S logo in black on both sides of the cup.

Ship Emblems _____ x \$3.50ea. = _____ Enclosed _____

Emblems

YAGR 2, 3*, 5, 6, 7, 8*, 9, 10, and 12 Hull # _____

AGR 1 thru 16 Hull # _____

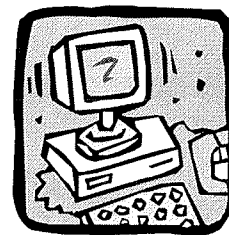
YAGR DIVISION 21, _____

RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO _____

NOTE: * the emblem is the same drawing with the exception of the letters YAGR or AGR

Emblems are approx. 4 1/2 inch diameter printed on 8 1/2" X 12" glossy paper.

All prices include shipping.



YAGR'S Web Page

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

Note: when you go to access the web site, the Letters YAGRS are case sensitive.