



Radar Picket Ships

YAGRGRAM #38

Fall 2005

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YAGR'S 11th Reunion St. Louis, MO

Location	St. Louis, MO
Dates	May, 18, 19, 20, 2006
Hotel	Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel 10700 Pear Tree Lane St. Louis, MO 63134
Room rate	\$79.00 per night
Make your room reservations call	
Phone number	1(800) 264-8771 (314) 423-9700

To view information about the hotel, visit their web page
<http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/STLAP>

The Airport Marriott Hotel is just a short shuttle ride from the St. Louis Airport (Lambert) and about a 35 minute ride by metro-link (light rail train) to downtown St. Louis and the arch.

The hotel has over 600 rooms and it features indoor and outdoor pools, fitness room, a couple of restaurants and the hospitality room we have is probably one of the best to date.

The hotel is primarily a business hotel and is a very busy place, so it is most important that you reserve your room as soon as possible. YAGR'S has a number of rooms set aside for our reunion. Something to keep in mind, don't let the hotel's 600 rooms lull you into a sense that there will always be rooms available. As I said, this is a very busy hotel. Don't be left out.

Pre-reunion Tour

As in the past, we have set up a pre-reunion tour for those of you who will be arriving early for the reunion.

Wednesday May 17, 2006 Dixieland Dinner Cruise 6:30 PM - 10:15 PM

Wednesday the 17th of May we will be going on a moonlight cruise on the mighty Mississippi River aboard a replica of a 19th century paddlewheeler.

While onboard, we will have an enjoyable evening of Dixieland music, dancing if you wish, dinner and a dramatic view of the St. Louis skyline.

The cost per person is \$57.00, which includes bus transportation to and from the Marriott Hotel.



Meet you in St. Louie, Louie !!!

Proposed Reunion Schedule.

May, 18, 19, 20, 2006

Thursday

May 18, 2006: Hospitality room opens 12 noon (Approx)

Friday

May 19, 2006: 9 am to 3 pm

Group Tour: Historic Sights in and around St. Louis.

The tour consists of a bus tour of various sights in St. Louis stopping off at a few of the most interesting, including the Arch. **Note:** The stop at the Arch is only a stop. It does not include going to the top (due to time restraints).

Afterwards the bus will take us to historic St. Charles where we will have lunch on your own and you will have a chance to tour on your own. If you do not wish to visit St. Charles, the bus will drop you off and pick you up at a nearby casino. You will need a valid I.D. for entry such as a driver's license, military I.D., passport.

3:30 pm: (Approx.) Hospitality room open.

Saturday

May 20, 2006: 9:00 am

Breakfast, penny social, contest for the spouses/guests.

9:15 am

Meeting for all former crewmen. (Coffee will be served).

noon to 3 pm

Hospitality room open.

6pm to 7 pm

Cocktails (cash bar).

7 pm to ??

Farewell Banquet.

Dress for the banquet,

Men: suit, sport coat/slacks or, if you prefer, your uniform.

Women: dress or suit.

The reunion registration fee this year is \$85.00 per person for dues paying member and their spouse/guest. For those of you who haven't paid your dues, the cost is \$100.00 per person. Hint, do the math before you send in your registration.

The reunion registration fee covers the hospitality room (drinks and light snacks), Friday group tour, mens gift, the Saturday morning spouses/guests breakfast, Saturday night banquet and the DJ we will have this year.

Be Happy!

Spouses/Guests

Laugh! Smile!

This year's theme is "Be Happy." Decorate a tote bag (this proved to be a popular item to decorate) to show what makes you smile. Whether it is a person, place or thing, go for it. Show us what makes you happy. As a plus, you may find other people going out of their way to make you smile once they know what makes you "Be Happy".

Decorating a tote bag is only part of the Saturday spouses/guests breakfast program. We also have a breakfast along with a penny social raffle. We do ask that you bring an inexpensive item to be raffled off. There is no charge for the raffle tickets.

We can assure you that you will have a good time. As a reminder, all spouses/guests are invited. There is no extra charge as the breakfast is part of the registration fee.

YAGR'S Dues

Dues for June 1, 2005 to May 31, 2006 are now due. When writing your check, make it out to YAGR'S and send it to me (address on page #1). As a reminder, if this is the first time you are paying your dues, they are \$17.00. Otherwise, dues are \$15.00.

S. F. Reunion Sideboys.

All accounted For.

The fourth sideboy that was not named in the last YAGRGRAM has been identified. He is Paul Shaffer (AGR-16, 1961-62). The S.F. reunion was the first one that Paul attended.



Tom Giardina (AGR-3), Paul Shaffer (AGR-16), Mike NeSmith (AGR-9) and Charlie Hooper (AGR-5)

Crew list and e-mail.

Just to refresh your memories about how and when the list of former crewmen we have located is sent to you.

First off, the list that is sent out has all the latest information I have on the people listed. I know that some of it has changed over time, but if I am not told about changes, I cannot make changes to the crewlist. We have located over 2,000 former crewmen. Our mailings go out to approximately 1,200. This means 800 or so have been dropped from the mailings and I have no way of knowing of any change in information on these people.

We remove people from our mailings if the Information Request Form is not returned to me after repeated requests are made. Also if after a number of years I hear nothing from a person, either by mail, phone or e-mail, they are removed. By not getting in touch with me in one way or another, it shows me that you have no interest in receiving information from us.

The first time a list is sent to you is when you return the Information Request Form that was sent to you when we first got in touch with you. This Request was sent along with the latest YAGRGRAM (newsletter). If you do not return the Information Request, the list of

former crewmen is not sent out to you. The second and succeeding times you will receive the updated list of crewmen is when you pay your dues. These are the only times the list is sent out. We cannot send out an updated list every time some one new is added because of the cost and time involved. You have to remember that we are keeping track of 16 ships, the crews of the USS YR-23, USS YR-65 and the staffs of RADRON ONE and RADRON TWO.

I have been asked about keeping up a list for e-mail. Doing so is impossible. People change their e-mail address at times what seems like on a weekly basis. In the past I have tried to keep up a listing of e-mail addresses and it turned into a nightmare. Recently, I tried it again, by adding new data as I became aware of an e-mail address. I assumed that by now most people had time to settle in to a provider they could live with. This is not the case. Frequent changes are still being made.

My suggestion to anyone who wants to get a person's e-mail address is to give them a phone call. If the person's phone number is not listed on the crewlist, look the phone number up on the internet or write the person a letter.

YAGR'S Book.

Information needed;

- (1) Ship Captains, names and dates.
- (2) Radio equipment used.
- (3) History of RADRON ONE (west coast squadron).
- (4) History of RADRON TWO (after 1962)
- (5) Pictures of radio, radar rooms, CIC and any radio, radar equipment.
- (6) Documents with dates showing decommissioning of the ships.
- (7) Anything you might think is of value.
- (8) Information on the YR-23 and the YR-65.

Work has started in earnest to gather and publish information regarding the radar picket ships. It is hoped that by the time the reunion rolls around, we will have a good layout that can be presented to the body attending the reunion.

One of the things being considered is to include sea stories that are sent in by former crewmen in the book.

At the reunion it was suggested we put together a separate book on the above, but it makes more sense to include it in the YAGR'S book if possible. While I do have some stories that have been sent in for the YAGRGRAMS, we can use more. If you do send one in, there is no guarantee that it will be included. Also, please don't send in anything too negative and, if possible, please type it.

Radiomen

We do not have any information at all on the radio equipment we used on the picket ships. If you have anything, get it to us. Check to see if you have your old training course books or anything else that will be of use.

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.



Bob Kniese (AGR-5, 1955-59)

I enjoy reading the sea stories in the YAGRGRAMs. New sailors were often sent on errands to find such things as plaid paint, Charlie Noble or, as in the engineering department, to turn on the cooling water in the hand rails.

At one time the deck department held an extensive training program on "relative bearings" in order to qualify new sailors in lookout duty.

On the mid-watch after this session, a young conscientious sailor on messenger watch was sent to find some "relative bearing grease." He made an extensive search through the entire engine room. He was sent to the shaft alley and after coming up empty handed, he started working his way up the "chain of command," waking up many engineering types. He finally woke up the Engineering Officer, where he found his relative "bearings" in no uncertain terms.

An Interesting Story.

The e-mail printed out below was sent to me in hopes of locating a former owner of the car and a lighter that was found in after the new owners bought it.

To: <yagr@cox.net>

Subject: USS Intercetor

Date: Thursday, July 14, 2005 6:33 PM

To: Harry Miller

Hello,

My husband recently purchased a 1962 Pontiac Grand Prix and found a Zippo lighter in the car with the USS Intercetor emblem on it. It is engraved on the back "Johnny & Sherree Daly." It was not in working condition and top was missing, so we sent it to Zippo and they repaired it (put a new inside mechanism) and replaced the top. We didn't notice the engraving until it was returned from Zippo. I have been looking around on the internet to find information on this ship (my husband is a Navy veteran) and wondering if there is any way to find out if Johnny Daly is still around. I think it would be great to return it to it's owner, and he might be interested in the fate of his car. Any info you can give me would be appreciated.

If any one has information about John Daly or his car, please let me know so that I can pass it along to the car's new owners.

YAGR'S Exhibit

Onboard the Battleship Massachusetts

July 8, 9, 10, 2005

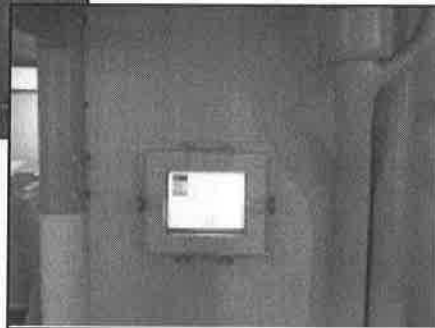
Work Weekend Battleship Massachusetts

While we did not have much of a work load figured for this work weekend, we did have a large turnout of personnel. Our regular work crew of Roland Cote (AGR-10, 1961-63), Jack Floyd (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65, 1964-65), Tom Giardina (AGR-3, 1961-63), John Hemminger (AGR-2, 1960-61), Henry MacKay (AGR-12, 1962-64), Harry Miller (AGR-11, 1962-64, YR-65, 1964-65), Al Nannini (AGR-15, 1960-62) and Jim Spiegel (AGR-12, 1963-65) was on hand as usual.

We finished the installation of the viewing port for the video about the ships. To accomplish this, we cut out the opening for the port that was made to protect the monitor. Also we built the shelving needed to support the monitor.



Tom Giardina cutting out section of bulkhead for port that will frame and protect the video monitor. While Tom was working on the outside of the display, Roland Cote, John Hemminger, Al Nannini were busy making the shelves and brackets that were needed to mount the monitor and computer on the inside.



Two views showing the port that will frame the video monitor.

Henry MacKay and Jim Spiegel spent their time working on the ship's turret #1. This work all had to do with the repairs we made earlier to the turret. We determined that one of the reasons the duct work had deteriorated was that there was no ventilation in the duct to allow for any water that gets into it to evaporate.

Making a frame out of flat bar and welding expanded metal to it, they made a screen that was installed on the underneath of the vent hood on #1 turret. Once this was done we decided to drill and tap the hood rather than weld it in place. This will allow the screen to be removed if ever needed.

The ship supplied the flat bar and expanded metal to make a screen for the underside of the vent hood.



We have also been going on the Massachusetts on week days to work on various projects. We have just finished setting up the video display that was mentioned in the last few YAGRGRAM'S. As you know the Battleship's staff has put together a video about the ships. Besides giving information about the ships, a few former crewmen were interviewed as part of the Battleship's oral history program and portions of these interviews were incorporated into the video.

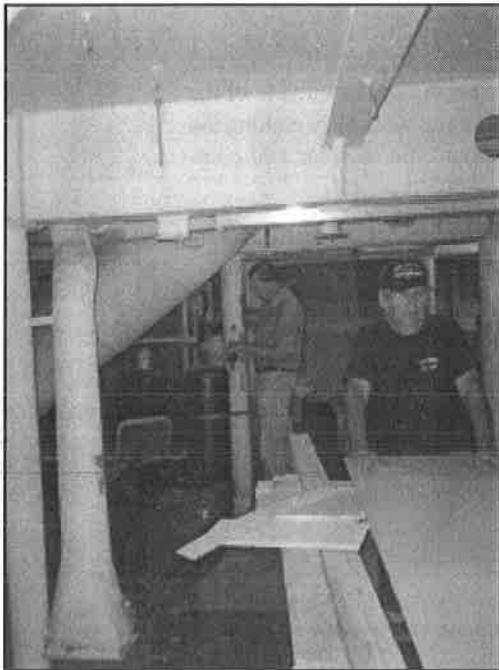
Another project completed was the installation of the YAGR'S logo over the mock up of the main deck area of a ship. The logo mounted on what would be the bridge wing of a ship. To protect the logo it was covered with museum quality plexi-glass.

We are also working on the final stages of a radar room mock up. Painting of the console, the radar repeater and powering it up (lighting it up), and various pieces of other equipment have to be powered up also.

In the past month or so a few former crewmen have come aboard to help out as needed: John Westcott (AGR-4, 1960-62) and Tim Adams (AGR-10, 1962, (AGR-11, 1962-63).

Tim was visiting with his wife's family in Rhode Island and he decided to volunteer a day on the ship. We put his talent as a welder to use. Jim Spiegel (AGR-12, 1963-65) donated an oxygen/acetylene cutting outfit to us. Jim did not know what shape the gauges were in or even if they worked. Tim checked out the gauges, cutting torch and hoses and found them to be in good shape. He did a little fabricating and welding job for us also.

John came onboard to help us out one Wednesday and expects to be coming down to the ship more often.

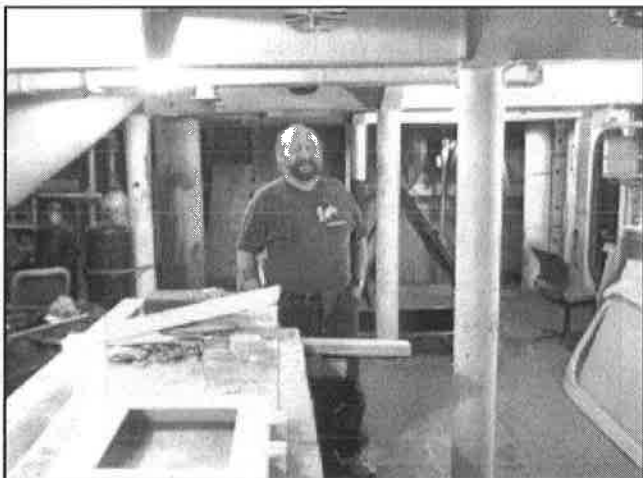


Tim Adams in back ground hooking up gauges for the cutting touch. Roland Cote in foreground with the sheet of plexi-glass for logo .



Harry Miller cutting plexi-glass for YAGR'S logo.

YAGR'S logo installed on mock up of ship's exterior,



John Westcott in our workshop on the Massachusetts



Radar Scope lit up. This setup is only temporary as it was only set up to take a picture.

1956 Ship Commissionings

1956 four radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

January 21, 1956	USS Locator AGR-6
January 30, 1956	USS Scanner AGR-5
February 8, 1956	USS Picket AGR-7
February 15, 1956	USS Interceptor AGR-8



U.S.S. SCANNER (AGR-5)

LIBERTY SHIP: SS EDWIN D. HOWARD

BUILT BY:	J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL
KEEL LAID:	24 JANUARY 1945 (HULL #2344)
LAUNCHED:	27 FEBRUARY 1945
SPONSORED BY:	MRS. JOHN E. DAVIDSON
PLACED IN SERVICE:	14 MARCH 1945
PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET:	9 DECEMBER 1946

U.S.S. SCANNER (AGR-5)

CONVERTED:	13 JUNE 1955 AT NORFOLK, VA
COMMISSIONED:	30 JANUARY 1956 AS YAGR-5 AT NORFOLK, VA
HOMEPORT:	28 MARCH 1956 AT SAN FRANCISCO, CA
RECLASSIFIED:	28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-5
DECOMMISSIONED:	21 JULY 1965
DISPOSITION:	03 OCTOBER 1974 SOLD AS SCRAP FOR \$182,000.00

Scanner was one of eight radar picket vessels assigned to RADRON ONE. While on various stations 500 to 600 miles off the west coast of the United States, her mission was that of providing vital radar information in the area of the seaward approaches to the North American Continent.

Note: For dues paying members, your spouse/guest registration fee is \$85.00 also.

Reunion Registration		St. Louis, MO		May 18, 19, 20, 2006		Please Print	
EXAMPLE	Cost per person	X	Number of People	=	Sub Total		
Dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$85.00	X	4	=	\$340.00		
Non dues paying members, spouses/guests	\$100.00	X		=	\$		
Optional Tour							
Pre Reunion Tour	\$57.00	X		=	\$		
Wednesday May 17, 2006							
ALL MEALS COST THE SAME.							
6:30 pm to 10:15 pm							
Names of people going on tour	PRIME RIB	CHAMPAGNE CHICKEN	BAKED FISH				
Reunion Shirts							
\$18.00 each	Small	Medium	Large	X	LARGE		
Number of each, times \$18.00						=	\$
\$20.00 each					XX - Large	=	\$
Number of each, times \$20.00					Total		\$