



Radar Picket Ships YAGRGRAM #41

Summer 2006

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DC in 2007



Our 12th reunion will be held in the Washington, DC area in 2007. At this time neither the dates nor the hotel have been selected. This information, along with the tours that will be set up, should be in the next YAGRGRAM.

As you all know, DC has numerous attractions, so setting up tours will be a challenge. One possibility to afford everyone an opportunity to see more of the area is to set up tours on the Tuesday and Wednesday preceding the reunion. So instead of having just one pre-reunion tour on Wednesday, we will add another on Tuesday. Get in touch with me with your thoughts about doing this.

DC was voted as our 2007 reunion site at the men's meeting that was held at our St. Louis reunion. Tom Chaffin (USS YR-65) proposed the DC area for our 2007 reunion and will be the local contact in the area.

St. Louis, MO Our 11th Reunion

The St. Louis reunion was a great success, as expressed by everyone that I spoke to. Even the weather cooperated. The early birds started to arrive on the Sunday before the start of the reunion and by Wednesday we had over 150 people at the hotel. The Wednesday night pre-tour was sold out, and we had a waiting list for those who wanted to go on the tour. **Something to keep in mind for future reunions. Sign up early!**

On Thursday, the start of the reunion we had 122 men and 109 spouses/guests for a total of 231 people. The 122 men represented 15 of the 16 ships and one YR. The only ship that had no one attending was the Interdictor.

Our hospitality room was put to good use throughout the course of the reunion. It seemed that there were always people hanging around while not touring the surrounding sights. And, as always, it was the place to meet old friends and make new ones.

Friday morning we had 5 bus loads of people going on the tour of St. Louis and St. Charles. Once again the weather was

great. The only downside to the trip was that not enough time was spent in St. Charles, but a lot of us went back either Saturday or Sunday to spend a little more time there.

Saturday morning the spouses/guests enjoyed their breakfast/penny social while the men were at the crewmen's meeting. That evening all 231 of us got together once again for cocktails and our farewell banquet. After we ate, the dance floor was put to good use (must be a good way to burn off the extra calories). It seemed that we had more dancers this year than others. Lastly, the Watchman crew was the last group to close out the evening in the banquet hall. But all was not lost, as the hotel's lounge and lobby area were full of those who did not want the evening to end so soon.

At this time I want to thank Dave Guse (AGR-4) for stepping up and preventing a disaster that was in the making. Monday morning I was informed by the local host that he was unable to help with the reunion for personal reasons. At that time

Dave along with Steve Mierzewski and the Searcher crew stepped up and volunteered to take up the slack. They went out and picked up all the items that were needed for the hospitality room. Then they stored all the items in Coleman Flaskamp's room (Coleman assured me he did not eat or drink any of the items while they were in his room). On the day of the reunion, they formed a work party to get everything from his room up to the hospitality room. A BZ (well done) goes to all of them for their help.

I also want to thank all of those who helped out in the hospitality room. We posted a watch bill for people to sign up for an hour or so throughout the time the hospitality room was open to make sure the snacks and beverages did not run low. I also don't want to forget to thank those who helped out at the check in table and selling the pins and raffle tickets.

Riverboat Dinner Cruise



Photo by Karl Boesenhofer (AGR-1)

Our reunion got off to a roaring start with our Wednesday night dinner cruise on the mighty Mississippi. Departing the hotel with 3 bus loads of anxious tourists looking forward to an evening on the river and the sights that would be seen from the riverboat. By all accounts, all had a very enjoyable and relaxing evening.

Hospitality Room



Our hospitality room consisted of two rooms and was located on the 9th floor of the hotel. With plenty of snacks and beverages, it was the perfect place to relax after a day of sight seeing.

We opened our hospitality room on Thursday at noon. It was a busy location for the duration of the reunion.



Saturday Morning Mens Meeting

Photo by Karl Boesenhofer (AGR-1)

The crew meeting was held Saturday morning with 122 men in attendance. We went over the status of the organization with various reports to the crewmen. Also reported on was the YAGR'S exhibit on the Battle Massachusetts and the progress being made on the YAGR'S book. In regards to the book, we hope we will have it ready in one year, but we also hope that we will



find more information about the ships, equipment and also get more pictures of shipboard life. Tom Ellsworth (AGR-11) and Frank

Pulaski (AGR-4) were thanked for working on some of the photos that will be included in the book.

John Wrafter (AGR-1) was presented with a plaque for being the first to sign up for the reunion. The plaque presented to him was a personalized scaled down sign of the Guardian sign that is on display in our exhibit on the Massachusetts. Robert Jones (AGR-1, AGR-9) was the lucky room raffle winner. He had his room paid for three nights while he was at the hotel.



Preceding our banquet we had a cocktail hour with a cash bar. This gave us another chance to mingle with old friends and new ones that were made at the reunion.



Photo by Judi Johnson (AGR-11)

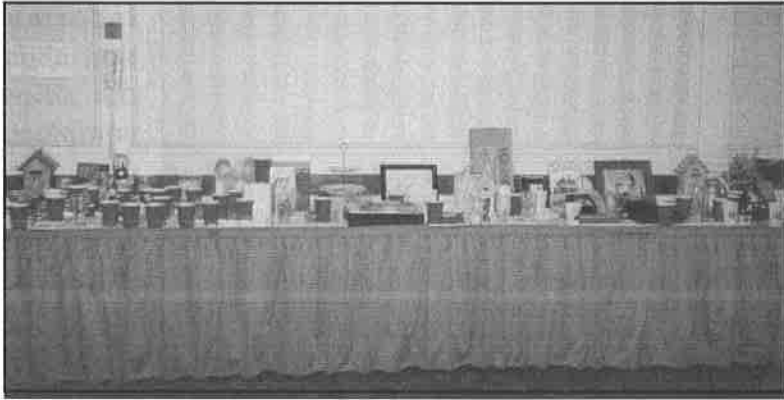


One of the 24 tables we had at the banquet.



After we finished eating, the dance floor was put to good use.

Spouses/Guests Breakfast and Penny Social



Tables showing some of the 100 plus items that were brought to the reunion to be raffled off.

Photo by Judi Johnson (AGR-11)

Looking for the best tote bag. The judging of best tote bag depicting "What makes me happy" is judged by all attending the spouses/guests breakfast



Photo by Judi Johnson (AGR-11)



Photo by Judi Johnson (AGR-11)

Some of the 109 spouses/guests seated at the breakfast function.

Photo by Gail Miller (AGR-11, YR-65)



And the winner of the best tote bag is Maureen Monks (AGR-1). Her bag depicted gardening and applique.

It seems that the Guardian crew came away with all the winnings at this year's reunion. Not only did they win the tote bag contest, they won the room raffle and also the plaque for the first person to sign up for the reunion.

1957 Ship Commissionings

1957 four radar picket ships were commissioned. The ships listed by date of commissioning were:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| January 16, 1957 | USS Investigator AGR-9 |
| February 6, 1957 | USS Outpost AGR-10 |
| February 20, 1957 | USS Protector AGR-11 |
| March 5, 1957 | USS Vigil AGR-12 |



U.S.S. INVESTIGATOR (AGR-9) *LIBERTY SHIP: SS CHARLES A. DRAPER*

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| BUILT BY: | J.A. JONES CONSTRUCTION CO., PANAMA CITY, FL |
| KEEL LAID: | 28 NOVEMBER 1944 (HULL #2336) |
| LAUNCHED: | 09 JANUARY 1945 |
| SPONSORED BY: | MRS. E. L. CILLS |
| PLACED IN SERVICE: | 24 JANUARY 1945 |
| PLACED IN RESERVE FLEET: | 26 OCTOBER 1945 |

U.S.S. INVESTIGATOR (AGR-9)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CONVERTED: | 02 JULY 1956 AT CHARLESTON, SC |
| COMMISSIONED: | 16 JANUARY 1957 AS YAGR-9 AT CHARLESTON, SC |
| HOMEPORT: | 01 MARCH 1957 AT NEWPORT, RI 01 OCTOBER 1957 AT DAVISVILLE, RI |
| RECLASSIFIED: | 28 SEPTEMBER 1958 AS AGR-9 |
| DECOMMISSIONED: | 01 APRIL 1965 |
| DISPOSITION: | 23 DECEMBER 1970 SOLD AS SCRAP FOR \$115,047.00 |

Investigator, while assigned to RADRON TWO, operated on various radar picket stations detecting and tracking inbound airborne objects and control of jet interceptor aircraft off the east coast of the United States.



Bob Blackwood, (USS Locator AGR-6)

In 1957, about sixty days before I got off USS Locator and was discharged at Treasure Island, I took all my leave time, which was 30 days, and came home to Durham to see my family and take care of the business of enrolling at Elon College where I had been accepted. I knew money would be short and I wanted to save all I could on travel expenses, so I decided to try to catch a military hop back to California. Everyone told me the best place to catch a direct flight would be Washington, DC. I allowed myself an extra week of travel time and my mother drove me about 30 miles north of my home in Durham and put me out on the road to hitchhike early one morning. I hitchhiked to Quantico, Virginia where I went down to the air base and immediately caught a plane to Washington, to what is today Reagan Airport.

I got off the plane and started to walk across the tarmac to Base Operations. Everyone I saw was a General, Admiral, or some other kind of high-ranking officer, so I snapped to and saluted everybody. As this was happening I heard a voice behind me say, "Hey, Sailor, where you going?" I turned around and snapped to and saluted. There in front of me was General Curtis LeMay, complete with his famous little cigar and more ribbons than I have ever seen on any man. I told him, "Base Operations, Sir." He said, "Sailor, that's not what I want to know. What I want to know is where in the Hell in the WORLD are you going?" "Oh, California, Sir," I replied as my knees trembled. He said, "Well, Son, you see that Super Constellation sitting over yonder with her engines running and the gangplank down? If you'll get on that thing, you'll be there late tonight." I replied, "Well, I have to go to Base Operations to give my name and information, Sir." "Naw, Son, do what I told you and get the Hell on the airplane," he said. "You can give your information to my aide." His aide was a Colonel. So I did what he said and ran and boarded the plane just as they were about to pull the gangplank, as he called it.

The crew of six was a really nice group of young Air Force men. There was a pilot, a co-pilot, a flight engineer, and three stewards. We immediately got underway and as we flew along, they took me around and introduced me to everyone and we immediately hit it off well together.

They told me the plane I boarded was Columbine I, which had been President Eisenhower's first Air Force I. After he got his second Air Force I, he took the old plane and gave it to General LeMay who was Commander of Strategic Air Command and the commander of all radar picket ships that we were on at that time. So I got to meet the Commander.

We flew along west until late in the afternoon. We were over St. Louis. Looking out the windows we saw three tornadoes. The pilot decided it was time to take it into Scott Air Force Base and put it in a hanger. After we had secured everything, one of the pilots said he had an old girlfriend out there he would like to look up and in a little while, this beautiful girl with three of her friends just as good looking, showed up to meet us. A little later, they had found two more just as good looking and real nice girls. So they decided to take us over and show us St. Louis. The weather had gotten bad so we stayed for three days. Each night, they brought us back to the base where they put us in a nice barracks all alone. One night while we were asleep in the barracks, a tornado came by and destroyed a service station just behind us outside the fence and never touched our building. After the three best days in my military career, we got back on Columbine I and flew to Travis Air Force Base. There, after helping them unload the plane for their return trip to DC, I went back to the USS Locator and was discharged about thirty days later.

Reunion Pictures

At the mens meeting, John Wrafter (AGR-1) had 5 disposable 35mm cameras that were donated to him. John and Larry Dallam (AGR-1) passed them out to 5 people so that they could take pictures while at the reunion and then return them to Larry so that he could put the pictures on a web site.

Once Larry was back home, he got to work, but he found that only a few of the pictures taken were of any use. Could this have been a problem with the cameras or the picture takers? He has set up a web page with these pictures in it. He has asked if anyone has any digital pictures they have taken while at the reunion to get in touch with him and he will include them in with the web page along with the ones already posted.

You can view the web page at: <http://community.webshots.com/user/jldallam>

You can reach Larry at: jldallam@cox.net

Who Can Decipher

The following two mottos are in Latin. Do you know what they say?

The first comes off the USS Vigil AGR-12 plaque
SINE QUA NON

The second comes off the USS Interpreter AGR-14 plaque
VERBATIM ET UTERATIM

Don't Forget

If you have any information you think will be of use for the book, please get it to me.



YAGR'S Web Page

We are looking for someone to re-work the YAGR'S web page. If at all possible I would like to have someone who does this professionally. I do not have the time and most importantly the skill to set up a great web page. At this time, the page we have set up is on a free web hosting site and it has too many pop ups and it does not present a professional appearance.

If you have been thinking of doing something for the Association but can only work at home, this is your chance to help out.

YAGR'S Dues

If you have paid your dues and did not receive your membership card and latest crewmen list that is sent with it, let me know.

Dues for June 1, 2006 to May 31, 2007 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.

For Your Information

If you received an information request form along with this YAGRGRAM, **PLEASE RETURN IT!!!** We are in the process of cutting our mailing list to help keep costs down. If it is not returned, I will assume you no longer wish to receive the YAGRGRAM.



If you have placed an order for an item and you have not received it yet, please get in touch with me.

The proceeds of items sold from the Ships Store help fund our exhibit on the Battleship Massachusetts. The only exception is the ship emblem pins. These proceeds are used to purchase other ship emblem pins.



We will be taking orders for hats and shirts with this YAGRGRAM. Keep in mind that we only take orders for hats and shirts twice a year.

Also as a reminder, these hats and shirts are custom made (made just to fill your order) and that we do not keep extra hats and shirts on hand.

Note: All orders must reach me by July 31, 2006. This is when all orders will be placed with our suppliers. It can take up to six weeks after that for you to receive your order.

Hat/Lapel Pins.

All of the ships emblems are in color and are approx. 1" in diameter.

We have 2 new pins:

- USS LOOKOUT AGR-2
- USS SCANNER AGR-5



Hat Devices.

BM, BT, DC, DK, GM, EN, ET, HM, MM, MR, MS, QM, RD, SH, SK, SM, are on hand, but in a limited quantity.

Denim Shirts.

Harvard Square 7oz. long sleeve denim shirt with double needle tailoring, button down collar, seven wood tone buttons and a left chest pocket. It has a silhouette of a radar picket ship with your ships name and hull number embroidered on it.



| ITEM | EACH | | QUANTITY | | SUB TOTAL |
|---|----------------------|--|----------|---|-----------|
| HAT HULL # _____ | \$19.50 | | X | = | |
| DENIM SHIRT HULL # _____ SIZE _____ | S,M, L,XL \$33.50 | | X | = | |
| SIZE _____ | XXL \$35.50 | | X | = | |

ALL HAT/LAPEL PINS LISTED BELOW ARE \$4.60 EACH OR ANY TWO FOR \$8.25

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| YAGR'S LOGO | | | X | = | |
| RADRON ONE | | | X | = | |
| RADRON TWO | | | X | = | |
| YAGR DIVISION 21 | | | X | = | |
| USS GUARDIAN AGR-1 | | | X | = | |
| USS LOOKOUT AGR-2 | | | X | = | |
| USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3 | | | X | = | |
| USS SCANNER AGR-5 | | | X | = | |
| USS LOCATOR YAGR-6 | | | X | = | |
| USS INTERCEPTOR AGR-8 | | | X | = | |
| USS OUTPOST AGR-10 | | | X | = | |
| USS PROTECTOR AGR-11 | | | X | = | |
| USS INTERDICTION AGR-13 | | | X | = | |
| USS TRACER AGR-15 | | | X | = | |

COST FOR ITEMS BELOW ARE AS LISTED

| | | | | | |
|--|---------|--|---|---|--|
| RADAR PICKET SHIP PIN 1-1/2" LONG | \$4.35 | | X | = | |
| PO1, PO2, PO3 CROW FOR HAT | | | | | |
| PO _____ WANTED | \$4.60 | | X | = | |
| HAT SPECIALITY DEVICE SPECIFY DEVICE _____ | \$4.85 | | X | = | |
| COFFEE CUP WITH YAGR'S LOGO | \$15.50 | | X | = | |

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO YAGRS

TOTAL

YOUR NAME