



## YAGRGRAM #66 - JUNE 2013

Lee Doyel, 2315 Bavarian Court, Pensacola FL 32503 (850) 433-6930

### 18th Reunion: April 2013 - Tucson AZ

The YAGR'S 18th reunion in Tucson was held at the Double Tree Hilton, which extended excellent hospitality. All YAGRS received chits for a full breakfast buffet for the duration of their stay. The Double Tree also hosted a wine and cheese reception for the YAGR'S in their outdoor courtyard. Pre-reunion tours included historic Tucson; dinner at Trildust Town; Tombstone & Boot Hill. On Friday the YAGR'S visited the PIMA Air Museum and the aircraft boneyard at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Verne and Connie Biggs of Tucson were the YAGR hosts for this event.



Verne & Connie Biggs  
USS Tracer

### Men's Business Meeting

Chair Lee Doyel (USS Tracer) opened the men's business meeting at 9:15am, Saturday, April 20. Attendance at Tucson was 62 crew members and 46 spouses/guests. Lee recognized Verne & Connie Biggs for their help in hosting this reunion.



Men's Business Meeting

**Registrations** - Lee discussed the matter of timely registration for our reunions, pre-reunion tours, and hotel rooms. We need to guarantee numbers at least 30 days in advance with the hotel so they can hold rooms and plan meals for the banquet,

and with the tour companies so they can schedule busses. With regard to cancellation refunds, if YAGR'S does not have to pay, refunds will be made.

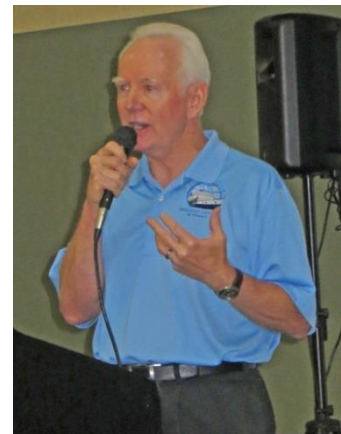
**Dues** - Dues will remain at \$17/membership year. Members may continue to pay dues for more than one year at a time. Dues paid by a member also includes their spouse of significant other. Spouses or significant others of deceased members may continue membership for as long as dues are current, and are welcome to remain members in good standing.



Chair Lee Doyel opens the men's business meeting

**Ship's Store** - The ship's store has hats, lighters, shirts etc. available for purchase. Lee explained that payment for ship's store items is due when the order is delivered. An invoice and instructions for payment will be included with each order delivered.

**Reunion Planning** - Lee introduced Brian Forrester of Holiday Cruises & Tours. Brian specializes in military reunions and has been helping YAGR'S plan the last several reunions, at no cost to YAGR'S. He helped Harry Miller plan the Nashville reunion, and helped with the Lancaster and Tucson reunions. He works with hotels and tours, negotiating the best rates, hospitality extras, scheduling etc. During our discussion & vote on a location for our 20th reunion in 2015, Brian was able to shed light on all locations being considered.



Military reunion planner Brian Forrester addresses the men's business meeting

## **Secretary's Report - Mel Harder (USS Investigator)**

**Membership:** As of 4/13/13 there were 494 dues paying members. As dues are received by YAGR'S treasurer Armand Lamarche, he notifies me via email. I then print updated membership cards and mail them to the member with a ship's crew list.

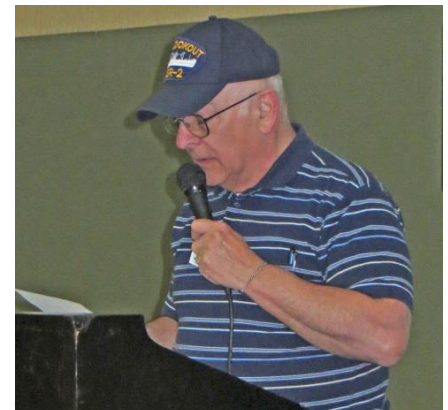
Current member records, expired member records, and individual ship's crew records are maintained using EXCELL. Records are updated as I receive notice of change of address, phone etc. If a member falls two years behind dues payment, or is deceased, the member's record is transferred to the expired member list and the date & reason noted. In the case of a member deceased, a notation is made on the ship's crew list.

**YAGRGRAM:** Three YAGRGRAMS have been published since the last reunion in Lancaster PA. YAGRGRAM # 63 - summer 2012; YAGRGRAM # 64 - fall 2012; YAGRGRAM # 65 - February 2013.

YAGRGRAMS are composed on Microsoft Word, uploaded to Staples for printing, stapling, folding and shipping to my address. I order 550 copies, and the cost is in the vicinity of \$350. Member address and YAGR logo are printed on pre-stamped, self stick envelopes using a personal computer. The folded YAGRGRAMS are stuffed, envelopes sealed and delivered to the post office. Total cost is about \$1.25/YAGRGRAM.

**Ship's Crew Lists:** I update crew lists as info (change of address, deceased etc.) is received. Crew lists are mailed out with membership cards. Names are never removed from the crew list. Once a year, I send crew lists out to Staples for printing, stapling, & tri-folding, so the crew list you receive may not have the most current information. If you want the most current crew list, send me an email and I will email the current crew list in pdf format.

**Treasurer's Report** - Armand LaMarche (USS Lookout) presented the treasurer's report. As of 4/13/13 YAGRS has \$14,820 in a checking account. Armand explained he plans to open a separate account for reunions which will allow the Association to determine exact reunion costs. This will help the Chairman in determining registration costs for future reunions. With so many variables, it can be a "crap shoot" in trying to figure out how much to allow for reunions. The Tucson reunion cost \$22,878.91.



Treasurer Armand LaMarche



Frank Pulaski presents photo from last reunion to Mike Nesmith, USS Investigator

**USS Massachusetts** - Roland Cote (USS Outpost) was not able to attend this reunion, but reported that at this time all work on the YAGR'S compartment is complete and now only maintenance is required. No additional funding required.

**Website** - Frank Pulaski (USS Searcher) reported 35 people have recently signed into the YAGR'S guest log. The last two issues of the YAGRGRAM are posted on the website in pdf format and can be viewed, downloaded and printed in color. The website address is **www.yagrs.org**. The website also has links to several YAGR ship web sites, ship's picture galleries, videos, and much more. Log on and check it out.

At the men's meeting the question came up on how to search the YAGR website guest log for ships & shipmates. Frank submitted the following.

**FIREFOX BROWSER:** First put the mouse at the very top of the browser and right click the mouse. Make sure MENU BAR is checked. Mouse click it if it is not checked. Click on EDIT at the top of the browser. On the drop down menu click FIND. Then type in the empty white box what you want to search for like WATCHMAN. You can now click NEXT or click ENTER to see all the WATCHMAN entries.

**MICROSOFT IE BROWSER:** First put the mouse at the very top of the browser and right click the mouse. Make sure MENU BAR is checked. Mouse click it if it is not checked. Click on EDIT at the top of the browser. On the drop down menu click FIND ON THIS PAGE. Then type in the white empty box what you want to search for like WATCHMAN. You can now click NEXT or click ENTER to see all the WATCHMAN entries.

**GOOGLE CHROME BROWSER:** Click the 3 bars in the upper right corner where the "mouse-over" says CUSTOMIZE and CONTROL GOOGLE CHROME. On the drop down menu click FIND then follow the same procedure listed above.



## **YAGR Book** - Joe Maurer (USS Vigil)

140 books have been sold to date. He is ordering 10 more gluebound books.

### **YAGR Book Order Form**

Glue Bound Book - \$17 each including tax & Postage

# ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ total paid: \_\_\_\_\_

name: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

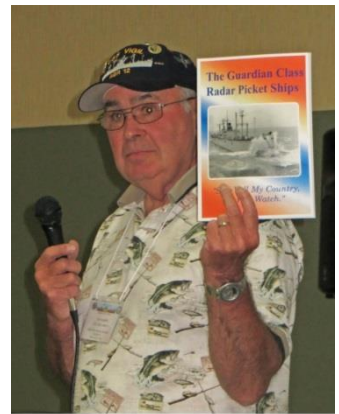
phone: \_\_\_\_\_ cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

received from: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Detach and keep for receipt:*

paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead OH 43440

phone: (419) 734-0580 & (419) 341-0960 email: [runinmuck@yahoo.com](mailto:runinmuck@yahoo.com)



Joe Maurer will be taking orders for the YAGR book

## **Ship's Coordinators**

The following is a list of current ship's coordinators.

If you ship does not have a coordinator, contact

Lee Doyel and volunteer. Ship's coordinators

maintain an email list of crew members and

forward communications from the chair. Crew

members receive advance notices of current YAGR

news, activities etc. If you wish to be included,

send an email to your ship's coordination

requesting to have your email address added.

### **Ship's Coordinators**

AGR-2	Ralph Rappuhun	<a href="mailto:rrappuhn@aol.com">rrappuhn@aol.com</a>
AGR-3	Chuck Parker	<a href="mailto:chuckparker@gmail.com">chuckparker@gmail.com</a>
AGR-4	Steve Mierzejewski	<a href="mailto:smjm@bex.net">smjm@bex.net</a>
AGR-5	Bob Wrestler	<a href="mailto:rdwerst@sbcglobal.net">rdwerst@sbcglobal.net</a>
AGR-6	Lee Doolittle	<a href="mailto:tloedoo@u.washington.edu">tloedoo@u.washington.edu</a>
AGR-9	Frank Mahaffey	<a href="mailto:bnf@att.net">bnf@att.net</a>
AGR-10	Paul Langenus	<a href="mailto:plangenus@cox.net">plangenus@cox.net</a>
AGR-11	Richard Lechtenberg	<a href="mailto:dickberg@staffing.net">dickberg@staffing.net</a>
AGR-12	Jesse Germany	<a href="mailto:jgermany31@gmail.com">jgermany31@gmail.com</a>
AGR-14	Joe Jackson	<a href="mailto:jacksonj@pldi.net">jacksonj@pldi.net</a>
AGR-15	Lee Doyel	<a href="mailto:mldoyel@cox.net">mldoyel@cox.net</a>
AGR-16	Frank McNamara	<a href="mailto:ec2sc1@comcast.net">ec2sc1@comcast.net</a>

Still need coordinators for AGR 1, 7, 8 & 13.

## **Drawing for free reunion hotel night**

Gary Willet (USS Scanner) & Douglas Jackson (USS Searcher) won a free night at the Double Tree.

## **Voting for 20th YAGR Reunion, 2015**

Rich Price (USS Guardian) put forward Kissimmee

FL and gave a brief presentation. Other

suggestions included Chicago, Charleston SC &

Springfield IL. A vote by raised hand was taken and

Charleston SC won by a large majority.



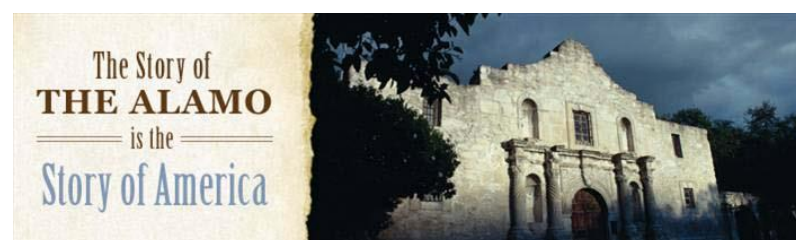
**Misc.** - Lee Doyel asked for a raise of hands by anyone who has attended every reunion. None had but several had attended all by one. Lee would like anyone who has attended all, or all but one or two, to contact him at [yagrs16@cox.net](mailto:yagrs16@cox.net) or by phone at (850) 433-6930.

## **End of Men's Meeting Report**

### **19th YAGR Reunion - 2014**

#### **San Antonio, TX**

Look for YAGR registration, hotel registration, info on San Antonio and pre-reunion tours in the next YAGRGRAM.





## USS TRACER



## USS INVESTIGATOR



## USS SKYWATCHER



## TUCSON GROUP PHOTOS BY SHIP

## USS SCANNER



## USS OUTPOST



## USS PROTECTOR





USS Vigil



USS WATCHMAN



USS SEARCHER

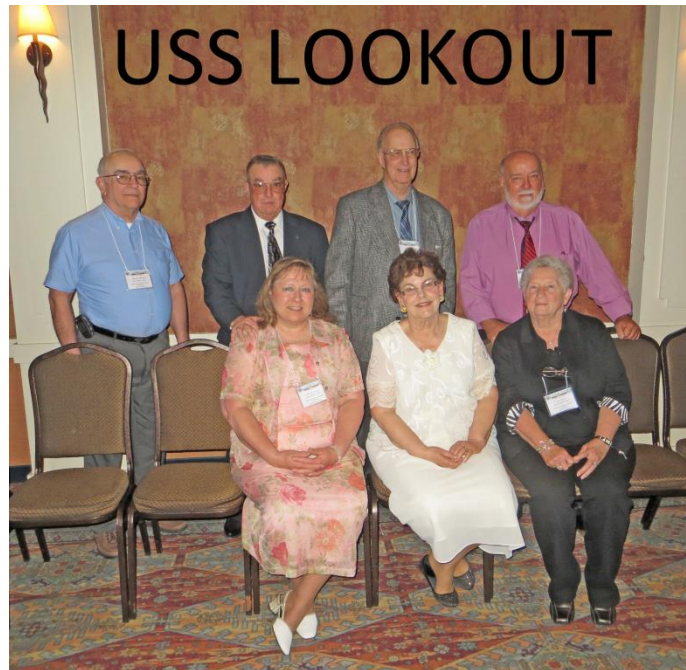


TUCSON  
GROUP  
PHOTOS  
BY SHIP

USS GUARDIAN



USS LOOKOUT





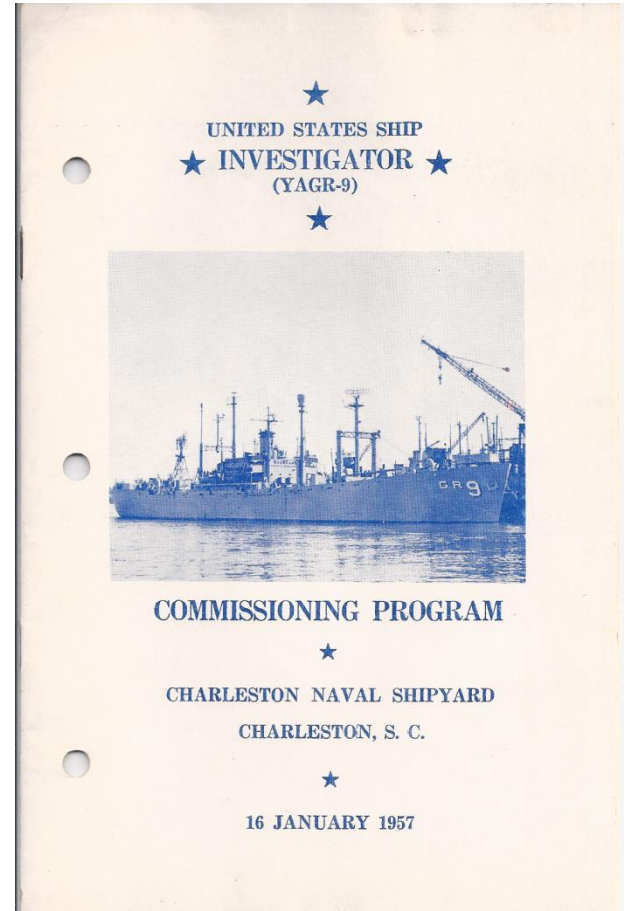
## USS INVESTIGATOR (AGR-9) ARTIFACTS FOUND

Mel Harder, AGR-9

LTCD Harold Hinckley was captain of the USS Investigator 1963-65, and was CO when the ship was decommissioned in 65. He salvaged the above brass letters from one of the ship's whaleboats. Captain Hinkley paid the YAGR'S a brief visit during the Tucson reunion and gave the YAGR'S several documents including an original COMMISSIONING PROGRAM, shown to right.



The 7.5" tall bronze USS Investigator plaque show below was discovered by Jim Hamil of CA as he was going through some boxes from an estate sale he purchased. Hank Ragsdale, AGR-9, remembers seeing the plaque on the ship's quarterdeck.



### Dues Payment

Dues are \$17 per year. The current membership year ends May 31, 2014. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your membership is currently paid to. If that date is **5/31/13** or earlier, your dues are tardy. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year. Make checks payable to YAGR'S Association, and mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica, MA 01862.

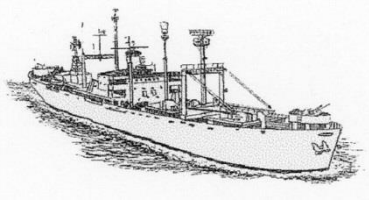
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship: \_\_\_\_\_

amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_



SEA STORIES - Email your sea stories to Mel Harder, YAGR Secretary, at [mel.harder@snet.net](mailto:mel.harder@snet.net) . You can include photos.

**Jan Murray and the Hot Pepper  
submitted by Bill Ivie USS Vigil AGR-12**

I had a shipmate on the USS Vigil AGR-12 named Jan Murray. I had an apartment in Providence, RI, with my new bride and Jan came for a visit. We had an ornamental pepper plant on the dining table with several very red peppers. Jan saw the peppers and said, "I love hot peppers" and before I could warn him he woofed down a whole pepper. I honestly believe I could see smoke coming out of his ears as he spent the next ten minutes drinking cold water to put out the fire.

However the XO did get along side the mail bag with just 3 engine orders. When this happened, the Captain's face started turning red. It was like in one of those cartoons where it starts at the neck and works it way up to the top of the head. He didn't have much hair. It was a sight to see. He stomped off the bridge to his cabin and we didn't see him for several hours.

I later learned from LT Coski at a reunion that the Captain had bet him a case of beer he couldn't get to the bag in three maneuvers. Lt Coski said the Captain never did pay up.  
Lee Doyel, AGR-15

**submitted by Lee Doyel, USS Tracer**

On the West coast the ships on station received personal mail drops from air force planes going to station and/or Navy reserve pilots on training flights. The mail was dropped in an orange bag somewhere near the ship (sometimes with a smoke marker) and the OD maneuvered the ship along side where the boatswain could snatch it with a hooked line. It was good training in maneuvering the ship for the Officers who stood bridge watches. Initially we also got official mail this way until on one occasion the bag exploded on contact with the water and the contents lost. From then on, only personal mail was delivered.

I don't recall the particularly time or patrol but I had the bridge watch (OD) when the mail plane came on scene. The whole ship knew when a mail plane was on scene and many came on deck to watch the recovery. The Captain (who shall remain nameless) came on the bridge with LT Coski, the XO. The Captain said he would maneuver the ship along side the bag for pick up. After about 15 to 20 minutes and numerous orders to the engine and helm it became obvious he was having trouble and if he made it along side the bag it would be a stroke of luck. The XO said he could do it with 3 orders to the engine. By this time the Captain was so frustrated he gave the command to the XO waited to say "See it isn't so easy."



**Pics from Tucson**

B52's with Catalina Mountains in background  
Boneyard, Davis-Monthan Airforce Base, Tucson AZ





## Ladies Breakfast - submitted by Nell Doyel

The Saturday morning Ladies Breakfast opened with an official Thank You from all 50 ladies to the YAGRs for hosting a delightful morning friendship experience at the 18th Annual YAGR Reunion. The ladies were thrilled with all the hotel services and accommodations, agreeing it was just about our best one! The penny auction this year was funny aprons and the winner was Gwen Birr and was given the prize of a US Navy Mess planning booklet, circa 1900-1920. It was fitting as her husband was a cook while in the Navy.

A little planning discussion was held and attendees decided that the **"Fashion Show" next year will be an eclectic event with each individual choosing their own item to make and model during the breakfast entertainment! "** **IT's your chance to shine!!! express yourself!** Share your smiles with everyone as you present your choice of a hat, a bag, a shirt, gloves, etc., anything you can think up! The "Penny Auction" will be held again and each person who so desires may bring a small item she created or a gift (\$15 limit suggested if something is purchased) to not ever be a burden on anyone!

Many of the ladies decided to participate in a charitable venture and will be gathering things suitable for a Battered Women's Ministry/Program locally in San Antonio. Feel free to participate if you would like to. This year many winter items were received for the service personnel overseas and Pat Reichling and her helpers from the Tracer received and processed them.

Lovely Southwest Cactus centerpieces were on the Breakfast and Banquet tables were taken home by a winner from each table. Thanks to Connie Biggs for arranging that lovely touch. Ladies of the Skywatcher AGR 3 will furnish the Auction Leadership at the San Antonio Reunion. Caroline Axelrod will see that the women from that ship participate in the auction proceedings so we all get to know them. Watch the next Newsletter for more on the San Antonio Ladies Breakfast! Thanks to the Tracer ladies for their part this year and THANKS TO ALL THE WOMEN WHO ATTENDED AND made this year the best ever!

----Nell Doyel

## Message from the Chair - Lee Doyel

It was observed that some individuals were leaving gratuities (Traildust Town) after the meal. This is not necessary. All tour prices negotiated by YAGRS include gratuities for wait staff, guides, drivers, etc.

It was noted that Harry has missed talking to members since his illness. His home phone number is 401-724-7278. Feel free to call him.

Unfortunately I must address two items that occurred during the reunion. The first is that a visitors bureau booklet from Springfield, IL proposing it be considered for a future reunion was on the tables in the hospitality room for all to peruse. However it disappeared the first day and was never returned. Please know that printed items, booklets, pictures, etc. on the tables should stay there. DO NOT REMOVE THEM UNLESS YOU OWN THE ITEM.

The second matter is more disturbing. On bus #2 during the boneyard tour the guide passed around a sample of the encapsulating material used to preserve the aircraft. While being passed around someone decided to keep the item and was not returned when the guide repeatedly asked for it. Not to mince words, this is theft and will not be tolerated. It is not midnight requisition, cumshaw, etc. We are no longer sailors. It reflects badly on YAGRS and my leadership. Any person found to be involved in such behavior will be declared "persona non grata" and asked to leave the reunion. Unfortunately I was informed of this too late to address it at the reunion.

**I am looking for someone in the San Antonio area to act as host for the 2014 reunion there. There is very little effort involved. Contact me for details.**

