

## Chairman's Report

Lee Doyel gave the chairman's report.

Harry Miller - He informed those present that Harry Miller is now in a care facility, and passed a card around for members to sign which will be sent to Harry. If anybody wishes to send their own card to Harry, please call or email Lee for address.

web site - Frank Pulaski is the YAGR web site administrator. He posts the last two issues of the YAGRGRAM, and maintains a picture gallery by ship. Members can forward pics to Frank for posting. When email responses to the web site are received from former crew members, Frank forwards them to Lee who then emails an invitation to join YAGRS.

ships store - All artwork (ship logos, patches) has been redone. Ships logos can be viewed & downloaded from the YAGR web site. With regard to ship's patches, that is still a work in progress, due to cost and minimum order requirements. YAGR hats are available at \$18 each, which includes shipping. Hats are shipped with an envelop for payment addressed to Armand LaMarche, treasurer. All checks should be made out to YAGRS.

ship's coordinators - Lee reported that currently he still needed coordinators for the Picket (AGR-7) and the Interdictor (AGR-13). Ship's coordinators maintain an email list that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. George Sleeper volunteered to be coordinator for the Protector (AGR-11). If you wish to be included, please send an email to George, or any of the other ship's coordinators listed below.

AGR-1	Frank St Mark	<a href="mailto:smarks117@hotmail.com">smarks117@hotmail.com</a>	AGR-9	Frank Mahaffey	<a href="mailto:bnf@att.net">bnf@att.net</a>
AGR-2	Ralph Rappuhun	<a href="mailto:rrappuhn@aol.com">rrappuhn@aol.com</a>	AGR-10	Paul Langenus	<a href="mailto:plangenus@cox.net">plangenus@cox.net</a>
AGR-3	Chuck Parker	<a href="mailto:chuckparker@gmail.com">chuckparker@gmail.com</a>	AGR-11	George Sleeper	<a href="mailto:gsleeper@roadrunner.com">gsleeper@roadrunner.com</a>
AGR-4	Steve Mierzejewski	<a href="mailto:smjm@bex.net">smjm@bex.net</a>	AGR-12	Jesse Germany	<a href="mailto:jgermany31@gmail.com">jgermany31@gmail.com</a>
AGR-5	Bob Werstler	<a href="mailto:rdwerst@sbcglobal.net">rdwerst@sbcglobal.net</a>	AGR-13		
AGR-6	Lee Doolittle	<a href="mailto:tleedoo@u.washington.edu">tleedoo@u.washington.edu</a>	AGR-14	Joe Jackson	<a href="mailto:jacksonj@pldi.net">jacksonj@pldi.net</a>
AGR-7			AGR-15	Lee Doyel	<a href="mailto:mldoyel@cox.net">mldoyel@cox.net</a>
AGR-8	Ron Stasiak	<a href="mailto:ronstasiak@rocketmail.com">ronstasiak@rocketmail.com</a>	AGR-16	Frank McNamara	<a href="mailto:ec2sc1@comcast.net">ec2sc1@comcast.net</a>

drawing for free room night - Lee picked a name of early reunion registrants from 22 names in a hat and awarded one free hotel night for the reunion. This years recipient was Gary Willet, USS Picket. Lee also drew a name from ship's coordinators present at the business meeting, and a free night was awarded to Frank Mahaffey. Doug Jackson, USS Searcher (AGR-4) was awarded a free night for being the very first to register.

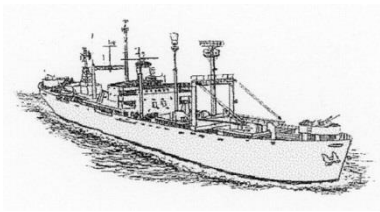
reunion attendance - total attendance at the San Antonio reunion was 121. 69 crew and 52 ladies.

USS Massachusetts Museum Display - Roland Cote maintains the exhibit, and has \$1300 remaining in the maintenance fund. YAGRS will continue to make an annual donation of \$1000 to the USS Massachusetts.

Internet listing YAGR reunions - Volunteer needed to list upcoming YAGR reunions on various military sites on the web.

## 2016 YAGR Reunion

Discussion was held regarding location of 2016 reunion. Lee and Brian Forrester (YAGR reunion planning consultant) discussed pros & cons of several locations and seasons for military reunions. The floor was opened for discussion and the following suggestions for 2016 made: Buffalo NY by Armand LaMarche (Lookout); Tampa FL by Jack Colgan (Skywatcher); Kissimmee FL by Rich Price (Guardian); Seattle by Bob Larkin (Skywatcher); Jacksonville FL and Branson MO by Brian Forrester. It was put to the vote and the 2016 reunion will be held in Branson MO.



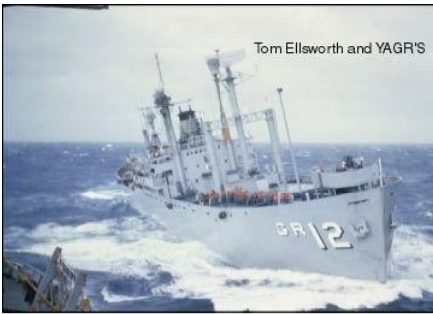
## Sea Stories

Send your seas stores to Mel Harder, Secretary, at [mel.harder@snet.net](mailto:mel.harder@snet.net)

### From Bob Philipp - USS Vigil, AGR-12

I served aboard the USS Vigil from February 1962 to July 1964. I was certified as an air intercept controller and for most of the time was the CIC or Operations Officer. On Monday, September 22, 1962 at 1900 JFK made his public pronouncement of the "quarantine" of Cuba. At the time we were on picket, I believe on station 18, the southernmost

operational east coast station. We were coming to the end of a long and weary picket, having endured two hurricanes earlier in September. I had just qualified as OOD and had the 20-2400 watch that night. We, of course, had heard JFK's speech and were wondering what it would mean for us. We had a lookout that watch, his nickname was "waterbottle". His real name was difficult to pronounce and even more difficult to spell, so he became waterbottle to one and all. He kept reporting seeing bright flashes of light to the south. Of course we all were thinking Atom bombs? Of course it was nothing, possibly lightning. The next day we went from DEFCON 5 to DEFCON 3.



A few days later we were still on station, having been extended at sea because of the crisis and the activation of station 20, another 200 miles closer to Cuba. I had the 12-1600 watch. Because of the crisis, we had put live shells in the 3"50 gun mounts fore and aft. About 1300 the lookout in the forward mount reported smoke coming from the gun. Smoke=?fire and live ammunition. I called general quarters even before notifying the captain. The boatswain of the watch got on the 1MC and announced "Fire, fire in the forward gun mount. This is a real fire" That got everyone moving. It turned out to be just an electrical problem which the EMs were able to correct quickly and the panic was over.

One other memory. Shortly after the 22nd an ASW carrier task force steamed by headed south. The TF commander ordered us to join his convey. Since we were under NORAD control and doing what we thought was a vital mission where we were, our CO, CDR Rawson, thought that was a bad idea. But rather than trying to explain the chain of command, etc. to an admiral, he merely replied that our top speed was 11 knots. The quick reply was to the effect of "OK-stay where you are and continue present duties."

Khrushchev announced that the missiles would be removed from Cuba on Sunday October 28 and we were released and returned to Davisville sometime thereafter-a three week picket having been extended to about five weeks as I recall. In preparing this account, I referenced "To the Brink-JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis" a 2012 publication from the National Archives which is a good, factual account of the crisis, which actually began that preceding Summer when U.S. Intelligence detected Soviet military shipments to Cuba. That book has many picture, maps and copies of many of the pertinent formerly top secret documents, along with a good bibliography for anyone interested in more details.

#### From Ted Wilming - USS Outpost, AGR-10 and USS Skywatcher, AGR-3



While emailing another retired Chief, and reading his "sea stories " about borrowing a Shore Patrol vehicle with the keys left in the ignition...it occurred that I had one of my own. After making RD2 in October 1964, I was awarded the Shore Patrol duty at the Davisville Enlisted Club outside the main gate. This turned out to be a rather uneventful evening which was great because this was my first SP duty. At 0200, the club closed and those who were on the ships gathered inside of the main gate and waited for the bus back to the pier. There were about eight guys, and since it was winter and a little cool waiting for the bus that was way to slow, whatever was consumed at the club came into play. whoever threw the snowball that hit

the back of the head of the Marine gate guard, well that started it and by the time the Sergeant of the Guard, then the Officer of the Day were on scene things got ugly. Unfortunately I did not think to take the armband off and the OOD spotted me. I was asked if I had observed the person who perpetrated this breach of military decorum and truthfully denied any involvement. The direction I received was to take each individual to the ships quarterdeck and turn them over to the OOD and explain the circumstances (with a straight face). I never heard anything more about the incident, and as the statute of liability is long gone my question is there anyone in this group (RadRon 2) who can add some information on this dastardly deed? or better yet who will like to try out as pitcher for the Yankees.

#### From Kenneth R. Wehr - USS Skywatcher, AGR-3

I served on the USS Skywatcher as a DK3 from July 64 to March 65 when we were decommissioned.

I have two stories: Story 1 - The Monday before Thanksgiving we left Davisville and headed for one on the northern picket stations. Just prior to our departure the news reported that the ocean liner Independence had encountered heavy seas, some as high as 60 feet, which caused damage to lifeboats and windows. We were headed to that same general area and the seas were rough on the way to the station and on Thanksgiving we encountered 30-40 foot seas. Very few



attended our holiday meal as most were seasick, including the Capt. and the XO. Turkeys and hams in pans were flying out of the ovens on to the deck and the mess crew had all they could do to get the food back in the trays and back in the ovens and served. You really had to hold on to your trays and mugs to get through the meal to say nothing about eating fast. The seas abated the next day becoming slow ground swells instead which caused additional seasickness. Years later, while watching the movie "The Perfect Storm", it brought back fresh memories of that time. I mentioned to my wife about my experience and she remarked that she was glad she didn't know it at the time. Story 2 - At some point while on board the Skywatcher we experienced a series of thefts. One was

of strawberries or strawberry ice cream (can't remember which) and the other involved the theft of a crewman's guitar. Both occasions precipitated inspections of the entire ship including the crew's personal lockers. Nothing was found. Soon after, one of our First Class cooks was seen around the ship with a paperback book sticking out of his back pocket with the title "The Caine Mutiny" showing. It wasn't long before the XO told the cook in no uncertain terms that he didn't want to see it again and that was that.

**Ladies Breakfast - Pat Reichling**

San Antonio is a beautiful and friendly city and it was certainly a special reunion. A big thank you to Diane DeRiso and Carolyn Axelrod, for monitoring the auction and also collecting and distributing the articles and the money donated, for



the Family Violence Prevention Services of Bexar County, TX .In addition to the clothing and toiletries donated, we women generously donated a total of \$450!!! Sooo.... many kind and considerate ladies we had attending! I witnessed several random acts of kindness at the breakfast. Jane Burtchen gave out crocheted butterflies that she had made herself. She also gave some to our serving staff and those girls were thrilled!! One other lady wanted to purchase butterflies from Jane for her Sunday School Class. Jane would not accept any money, so the kind lady made another donation to the Violence Prevention Center!!! Another lady gave out some US flags and asked us to "plant" them randomly during our travels. Planting random flags was this lady and her husband's passion and they do so all over the US.

This was only the second year that we included a charity collection in our activities and the ladies expressed an interest in continuing to do so next year.

An update was given on Harry, Gayle as well as Nell's health situation, and all were asked to include them in their prayers. We had 4 new ladies attending this year and we were all happy that they joined us, and hope to see them again in Charleston. We sadly missed our Nell and want her back with us!! Thank you also Lee and the other members of the YAGRS for arranging the private room for the women to have our fun on Saturday morning while you all do the work!!! In a past conversation with Nell, she mentioned that the plan was to have a fall YagrGram this year and further information would be in that publication as to what charity, theme and any further activities would take place in 2015 at the LADIES BREAKFAST.

**YAGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil**

**YAGR'S BOOK ORDER**

Glue Bound Book (\$19.00 each - Tax and Postage Incl.)

No. Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt. Due \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Detach and keep for receipt:

Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: [runinmuck@yahoo.com](mailto:runinmuck@yahoo.com)

