



U.S.S. GUARDIAN	AGR-1	U.S.S. INVESTIGATOR	AGR-9
U.S.S. LOOKOUT	AGR-2	U.S.S. OUTPOST	AGR-10
U.S.S. SKYWATCHER	AGR-3	U.S.S. PROTECTOR	AGR-11
U.S.S. SEARCHER	AGR-4	U.S.S. VIGIL	AGR-12
U.S.S. SCANNER	AGR-5	U.S.S. INTERDICTOR	AGR-13
U.S.S. LOCATOR	AGR-6	U.S.S. INTERPRETER	AGR-14
U.S.S. PICKET	AGR-7	U.S.S. TRACER	AGR-15
U.S.S. INTERCEPTOR	AGR-8	U.S.S. WATCHMAN	AGR-16
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## Charleston, SC June 4, 5, 6, 1998

### YAGRGRAM #6

September 9, 1997

*C-627014 134*

The 3rd YAGR'S reunion will be held on Thursday, June 4, Friday, June 5 and Saturday, June 6, 1998, at the Sheraton Charleston, 170 Lockwood drive, Charleston, SC 29403. The telephone number to call is 1-800-968-3569. Be sure to tell them that you are with the YAGR'S reunion when you make your reservations. Our room rate is \$80.00 per night. YAGR'S has set aside a block of 125 rooms. This might seem like a lot, but remember that in Baltimore we had 75 rooms and some people had to go to another hotel because they waited too long to reserve their room. At this time I am projecting that 180 to 200 new members will know of the up-coming reunion. This is why we will have the 125 rooms available for our use. So don't hesitate. Make your reservations now! As you can see by the number of rooms that I am having set aside for our use, I figure we will have around 125 crewmen attending. With spouses and guests there should be around 250 people at the up-coming reunion. This is only a guess at this time. If everyone who is planning to attend makes their hotel reservations in a timely manner, I will be able to make the necessary adjustments on the number of rooms to hold.

The tours and other functions are still being worked on. But as per the other reunions, Thursday will be for checking in and getting settled. Friday will be the tour. On Saturday morning we will hold a short business meeting for the YAGRMEN. Also on Saturday morning there will be a breakfast buffet for our wives/guests, followed by a penny social which proved very popular last year. Saturday night we will hold our banquet. In the next YAGRGRAM I will have more information. Also I will have the reunion registration forms with YAGRGRAM #7.

This year's tour will be to Patriots Point, which has one of the largest Naval displays in the United States. The Coast Guard Cutter Ingham is part of this display. This is the Coast Guard Cutter that came to the aid of the Searcher when she was on fire in 1955. Also there is a set up of a Vietnam Naval Support Base, along with a PBR (river patrol boat) as used in Vietnam.

For the Saturday morning Penny Social, we are asking each wife/guest to bring an article to raffle off. It should cost no more than \$5.00. And of course, hand-made craft items will certainly be welcome.

Charleston, SC has many attractions. There is something for everyone, from the Civil War Fort Sumter to pre-civil war plantations and gardens. Also the City of Charleston has a large historic area. To request more information, you can call the Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau, 1-800-868-8118 and ask for tourist information.

ABOUT THE YAGR BOOK. Bob Sangster (AGR-1, 1959-62) and Richard Price (AGR-1, 1959-62) have been busy getting information about the YAGR'S. Both Bob and Richard live in the Washington, DC area and they have been going to the Naval archives to dig up information. And from what Bob tells me, dig up is just about what they are



doing. With very few exceptions they are the only ones sending information to me about the YAGR'S. As I said in the last YAGRGRAM, if you only know one bit of info, this will help. Again, we want to know what the earlier radars were, dates if known when they were updated. If you have anything on electronics, engineering, deck, gunnery or supply, send it in. Nothing is too trivial at this point. Another thing we want to do is clarify the de-commissioning dates of the ships. If you were aboard and have something showing dates of de-commissioning, please get the dates to me. Getting all of this information isn't going to happen overnight but if we, the former crewmen don't do it, it will never be done. Remember your input is very important!!! Bruce Bailey, who wrote the first book, has requested that all information be sent to me.

In regards to the ships logos, I have AGR-1 thru AGR-16, and YAGR 2,6,7,8,9, RADRON ONE, RADRON TWO, YAGR DIV 21. If you have a logo that is not listed, please send it to me. I will make sure it gets back to you. Or I can use a picture of it. NOTE, AGR-16 had two logos as an AGR. I now have both of them. If you would like a drawing of a logo, the cost is \$3.25, postage included. The logos are app. 4 1/2" in diameter and are printed in color on 8 1/2" X 11" glossy paper. As always, make your check payable to YAGR'S.

I have been informed by Rod Neal (AGR-11, 1963-64) that the Air Craft Carrier Yorktown, which is part of the Patriots Point display, has agreed to set aside space for a permanent YAGR display. Rod is a volunteer worker on the Yorktown. So the call goes out. If you have any memorabilia that you want to donate to this permanent display, let me know so we can get it aboard the Yorktown. One item that is especially wanted is a model of a YAGR. Rod hopes that there will be something set up by the time we visit the Yorktown this June. I will be sending down the logo's, ship patches that were given to me by former crewmen, ships plaques that I have and a copy of a set of blueprints for the Interdictor AGR-14 that was sent to me by Joe Biron (AGR-9 XO, 1958-60)(AGR-14 CO, 1964-65).

In YAGRGRAM #5, in asking that the people that have not returned the Information Request form that was sent to them in the first packet they received from me, I made a statement: "**If you decide not to send this information, I will assume you no longer want to be kept informed about the YAGR'S**". This was mis-read by someone that if they did not pay their dues, they would not be kept informed. **This is not so!!!!** I am just trying to keep the list of former crewmen that I send information to as up to date as possible. It has nothing to do with if you paid your dues or not. The information that I need, which is added to the list of former crewmen for the ship/ships that you served on, is NAME, STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE, SHIP/SHIPS SERVED ON, RANK/RATE WHILE ABOARD, YEAR ABOARD (SUCH AS 1962-1964) AND YOUR PHONE NUMBER. If you do not want your phone number listed on the list that is sent out, let me know. NOTE, this information is not given out to anyone except the former crewmen from the ship/ships you served on. Once I receive this information from you, you will receive the list of former shipmates from your ship/ships.

You can tell if you have sent me the above information by looking after your name on the mailing label on the envelope. If it has GR or YR and the hull number of the ship/ships you served on after your name, you know that I have received your Information Request form.

Since YAGRGRAM #5, seventy five (75) additional former crewmen have been located. This brings our total to six hundred and twelve (612) who now know about YAGR'S.

We are still trying to locate former crewmen who served on the YAGR'S. If you know of anyone, please get their name to me. I will need their first and last name and middle initial if known. If you know the part of the country they came from, that will be a big help.

At this time I would like to ask everyone to post a reunion notice in their local newspaper. Along with this notice you might mention that YAGR'S is seeking former crewmen from all 16 ships. Also if you belong to the VFW, American Legion, FRA, or any other Military connected organization that accepts reunion notices, please send a reunion notice to them as well. This will be a big help in trying to get the word out about YAGR'S.



I will be placing another order for hats. **Please get your order to me by October 15, 1997.** Send your name, ship's hat wanted, number of hats wanted along with \$14.00 for each hat. As a reminder, we now have hats for the two YR'S. Make your checks payable to YAGR'S. This is the last order I will be placing this year.

By now everyone who has ordered a hat, cup, logos or paid their dues will have received the item ordered or received their membership card. If you have not, let me know.

Dues for the 1997-1998 (June 1, 1997 to May 31, 1998) are being collected. Dues are \$17.00 for the first time you pay and \$15.00 after that.

I hope you all noticed the new letterhead. This is the YAGR logo John Draves designed (AGR-2 1959-61, AGR-9 1961-62). Also note my E-MAIL address.

The below account was sent to me by T.R. Mahoney (AGR-2 CO, 1960-62) in response to my request of having something to put in the YAGRGRAMS. It is just as it was sent to me.

### SNEAKY PETE

During the second year that I had command of the Lookout, we made a picket on the Southern most station, which was located in the Gulf stream. During the picket, there was a relatively small hurricane traveling westward north of the line of islands south of us. I had been watching the reports on the storm closely, and the predictions were for it to keep on its westerly direction. So I turned in, leaving the ship in its standard steaming condition.

In the morning after my shower I walked on the bridge. I immediately felt something was wrong. I sniffed the air, went on the wing of the bridge and examined the sky. It was a full overcast. I returned to the bridge, went over to the radar repeater and told the operator to run the range from the 20 miles used for surface contacts search to 150 miles. Sure enough, there it was. During the night, the hurricane had turned due north and was headed right at us. I do think I smelled it when I stepped on the bridge.

Needless to say, we started detailed preparations for fighting the storm. I ordered the second boiler put on line. All gear was stowed for rough weather. I changed course to the north. We reported the storm's position to the Weather Center. When the second boiler was on line, I turned the ship back to the SSE course we needed to keep on station. We weathered the storm with no difficulty. Remember, I said it was a mild one. For quite a while, however, we were the only source of information on the storm that the Weather Center had. After all we had only to report our position.

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Seeing that I have some space, I added a little quiz about the YAGR'S. ***The first response I receive*** with the most correct answers will receive a ship logo or drawing of the ship of their choice. No E-MAIL. I want everyone to have the same chance of responding first.

- (1) Liberty ships were converted to use as Radar Picket Ships. These Liberty Ships were designated as Z-EC2-S-C5. What does this designation mean ? \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) What YAGR was commissioned first ? \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) What YAGR was first to arrive on the West Coast ? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) What was RADRON ONE known as before it became RADRON ONE ? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) What YAGR went to sea and never made it back to port ? \_\_\_\_\_

I hope to see you in Charleston,







## ABOUT THE

### U.S.S. SKYWATCHER AGR-3

**Launched** as the SS Rafael R. Rivera, Maritime # 2337.  
Jan. 1945, Built by J. A. Jones Construction co,  
at Panama City, FL.

**Commissioned:** US Navy: March 29, 1955 as  
U.S.S. Skywatcher YAGR-3

**De-commissioned:** March 30, 1965

**Scrapped:** May 15, 1971



### U.S.S. Locator AGR-6

**Launched:** as the SS Frank O. Peterson, Maritime # 2347.  
April, 1945. Built by J.A. Jones Construction Co.  
at Panama City, FL

**Commissioned:** US Navy: Jan.21, 1956 as  
U.S.S. Locator YAGR-6

**De-commissioned:** Aug. 9, 1965

**Scrapped:** Jan. 4, 1975

