



YAGRGRAM #73 - FALL 2015

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

view & print this YAGRGRAM in color at yagrs.org

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Upcoming 21st Annual YAGR's Reunion - 2016 - Branson MO

The 2016 reunion will be at the **Radisson Hotel Branson**, 120 South Wildwood Dr., Branson, MO 65616.
 Phone: 417-335-5767 and 888-566-5290. Web: radison.com/bransonmo. The dates are Thursday May 19 - Saturday May 21. The pre-reunion tours will be Tuesday May 17, Wednesday May 18 and Thursday May 19. The YAGR rate is \$100/night plus 11.6% room tax. **Hotel registration includes complimentary breakfast buffet.** A reunion registration form, order form for shirts, and descriptions of pre-reunion and the Friday May 20 tour are included in this YAGRGRAM.

- **Accessibility Features**
- Amenities within accessible range to reach
- Lever hardware
- Roll-in shower
- Grab bars for tub & toilet
- Transfer seat to tub
- Wider guest room and bathroom doorways
- Wheelchair accessible lobby, entrances, public restrooms
- Please contact the hotel to confirm if an accessible room will meet your needs or if you have other questions.



HOTEL DINING

Wildwood Bistro

Wildwood Bistro proudly uses fresh, locally sourced ingredients to create delicious American cuisine in a stylish, welcoming atmosphere. Wildwood Bistro is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Time Out Sports Lounge

Time Out Sports Lounge is perfect for unwinding with after-dinner cocktails or simply catching the game on one of the big-screen TVs. Don't miss the daily happy hour, and be sure to ask about seasonal drink specialties

Hotel Services & Amenities

- 472 rooms and suites
- 15,000 square feet of meeting and event space
- Fitness center by Precor®
- Heated indoor/outdoor pool
- Sauna
- Whirlpool tub
- Business center
- Full-service concierge desk to assist with transportation, tickets to local events and more
- Parking (complimentary)
- 3-Hour Express Laundry
- Grab & Run Breakfast
- Room service from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
- High-speed, wireless Internet access in all rooms and suites (complimentary)
- Vending areas on each hotel room level

Memos from Lee Doyel, Chair

You guys did great at registering early for the Charleston reunion which allowed us to get some late comers in a full hotel as well as on the tours. Please do the same this year. Early registration makes it run so much smoother (and easier on me). Since there is a choice of 7 tours, it is ESSENTIAL to know as EARLY AS POSSIBLE the number for each tour. I know you will come through again. Please note that the registration form this year asks for additional information.

At the Charleston business meeting I asked if any one had seen or new about a black photo album I normally put out at reunions. It was the first 10 years of the reunions. Well it has turned up. The cleaning lady found it while cleaning.

2017 Reunion, Chesapeake VA

We have a contract for the 2017 reunion with the Sheraton Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, VA for 2 May to 6 May 2017. Dates include pre-reunion tours. Room rate is \$109.00 plus 14% room tax and a \$2.00 a night city tax. I looked at 4 different hotels in the Chesapeake/Norfolk area (also known as the Tidewater area) and this one was the better of the four. All had the same room and tax rates. The room rate is very reasonable considering the date is 19 months down the road. The hotel is downtown on the river and has a better ambiance than the airport hotels we have been using in the past. The ladies are really going to like this one. Details (address, web site, parking, shuttle, phone number, etc.) will be in YAGRGRAM #74." So mark your calendars.

Ship' Store

The way I run the ship's store is that when I receive the item from the vendor I send the it to the individual with an invoice enclosed with the item (hat, cup, shirt, etc.). I also enclose a stamped enveloped addressed to Armand Lamarche (Treasurer) for mailing the payment. You do not pay until you receive the item. I do not collect payments. Armand does that.

Hat Pins & Reunion Shirts

I have hat pins for the reunion cruise, Charleston, Newport, Philadelphia, San Francisco, San Diego, St Louis, Lancaster and San Antonio. Five dollars each including postage. I also have 3 XXXL and 1 XL reunion shirt for San Antonio and 1-XL and 2 Med reunion shirts for Charleston. Ten dollars each including postage. First come first served.

I have a number of YAGR hats and coffee cups at \$20 each including postage.

Ship's Patches

At long last and considerable effort ship's patches will be available. I have contracted with a local vender to have all the ships' logos scanned into their graphics system for embroidering the ship's logos. This will be done next month (September). After that is accomplished the vender will be able to embroidery the individual ship's logos. The patches will be approximately 4-1/2" in diameter and cost from \$4 to \$6. You can order patches by emailing me or by snail mail (addresses on 1st page) the ship's name and hull number and the quantity of patches desired. It is unknown at this point what the lead time for making and mailing the patches will be.

USS Massachusetts Report - submitted by Roland Cote, AGR-10

On 17 June 2015, aboard the battleship "USS Massachusetts" Executive Director Brad King was presented the annual YAGR Association donation of \$1,000 by John Hemminger (AGR-2) and Roland Cote (AGR-10).



ship's coordinators - 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. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator.

AGR-1 Frank St Mark smarks117@hotmail.com
AGR-2 Ralph Rappuhun rrappuhn@aol.com
AGR-3 Chuck Parker chuckparker@gmail.com
AGR-4 Steve Mierzejewski smjm@bex.net
AGR-5 Bob Werstler rdwerst@sbcglobal.net
AGR-6 Lee Doolittle tleedoo@u.washington.edu
AGR-7
AGR-8 Ron Stasiak ronstasiak@rocketmail.com

AGR-9 Frank Mahaffey bnf@att.net
AGR-10 Paul Langenus plangenus@cox.net
AGR-11 George Sleeper gsleeper@roadrunner.com
AGR-12 Jesse Germany jgermany31@gmail.com
AGR-13
AGR-14 Joe Jackson jacksonj@pldi.net
AGR-15 Lee Doyel mldoyel@cox.net
AGR-16 Frank McNamara ec2sc1@comcast.net

Dues Payment - Mel Harder, secretary

dues are \$17/year - make checks out to YAGRS ASSOCIATION

mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862

The current membership year ends May 31, 2016. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your current membership is good through. If that date is **5/31/15** or earlier, please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive an updated membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year.

Name: _____ Ship: _____

Address: _____

amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

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 _____

Name _____

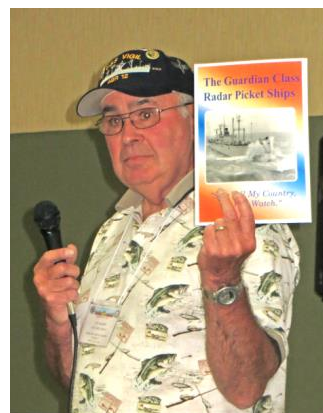
Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

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

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



Ladies Breakfast Branson - Pat Reichling

So many of the ladies are looking forward to Branson in 2016!!! Bill and I have never been there. I must confess if it wasn't for these wonderful reunions, I probably wouldn't get him out of SC!

The contest theme for the 2016 Ladies Breakfast is Country Western. Coincidentally, I was invited to a Country Western Party next month, and there also will be a contest. The hostess for that party gave us some suggestions, and I thought I would pass them on to the YAGRS Ladies.

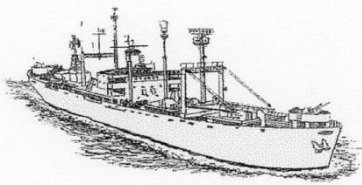
A hat, boots, a stick horse (I would have never thought of that one), vest or any old denim outfit you may find a thrift shop decorated to your taste. We are sure every outfit has it's own story of inspiration and we will look forward to hearing you tell us about it!

Lee Doyel has agreed to providing us with trophies again this year. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. I am hoping to find trophies with an "appropriate" figure for the top!!

More info in the next letter.

Pat Reichling





Sea Stories

submit your sea stories to mel.harder@snet.net

Submitted by Ken Wehr DK3 USS Skywatcher 1964-1965. Appreciated the stories in the latest Yagrogram about the Searcher and the Skywatcher. I had heard about them before but the details were very interesting..ken

In the summer/fall of 1964(can't remember exact time)we were on station when one of our usual Soviet trawler shadows got a little too close for comfort. We were close enough to wave and give each other the one finger salute. The Capt. ultimately passed the word to one of our junior officers who spoke Russian to hail the trawler and warn him to stand off and move away which it eventually did. I don't know what we would have done if He didn't. We certainly weren't going to fire on them and cause an international incident. Besides the fact that one of our 3 inch 50's was completely rusted and unable to fire and I'm not sure our gun crew could have hit it anyway.

During that same time period one of our fresh water holding tanks got contaminated by salt water due to a hole in the hull .I seem to remember some sort of alarm going off but my memory fails me at that point. We were on water hours until the problem could be located and fixed. Ultimately a BT2 named Tinsley got down into the tank, the water being extremely cold, and plugged the hole in the tank with a self tapping machine screw with a rubber washer. It held until we back to Davisville much to the relief of the crew. We heard later that the Capt. had a Letter of Commendation put in Tinsley's personnel file. Life was not always boring on Yagrs...Ken WehrDK3

USS Watchman Rescue - This is a excerpt from crew member Frank McNamara's ship's history on the Watchman web site. The photo is from Watchman plank owner TOM WIGGIN, BT3.

WATCHMAN completed her fair share of patrols in 1959 (total of 6). While enroute to RPS #9, on December 17, Watchman picked up an SOS from the SS GUAM PIONEER. It soon became apparent that she was the only ship in the area who could effect a rescue and received permission to alter course. She was designated SAR commander and set course toward the PIONEER's last known position. Mr. West's navigation was right on the money and WATCHMAN sailed right to the survivors. A mere few hours later, lookouts reported several red flares visible. The ship maneuvered and eventually picked up 15 survivors of the SS GUAM PIONEER including the Master, Harry M. Drew. Search and rescue for mariners in trouble was a secondary mission of the radar picket ships - **mission**

accomplished. There was much discussion over what to do with the survivor's life boats including sinking them with 3" gunfire or towing them. In the end Capt. Boaz ordered them set adrift and notified the Coast Guard. The survivors were eventually transferred to the USS PICKET (AGR-7) and WATCHMAN continued to station.



Navy Saves Crew of 15 From Missing Freighter

LONG BEACH, Calif., Dec. 17. (AP)—A navy ship today rescued 15 seamen who abandoned their sinking freighter in the Pacific.

The U. S. S. Watchman, a navy picket boat, found two lifeboats after hours of searching. All the crew was rescued and there were no injuries.

The coast guard here said it was presumed that the freighter S. S. Guam Pioneer, laden with scrap iron, had gone down.

The crewmen were to be transferred to another navy ship, the U. S. S. Picket, for return to San Francisco.

Earlier the agents for the freighter said they assumed it had gone down as there had been no messages since an SOS was received. The distress message from Capt. Mahlon Boese said there was flooding in the shaft alley of the hold.

The 300-foot, 3500-ton freighter sailed from San Francisco Sunday headed for Honolulu and then for Japan.

The ship's agent, Transmarine Navigation company, said four Americans were aboard: Captain Boese; Capt Harry Drew, one of the ship's owners; Hubert McCall of Honolulu, being broken in as the chief engineer, and Aubrey Corbett, believed to be from Texas, radio operator and second mate.

"Hard Luck" Ship

The Guam Pioneer had been plagued with bad luck. Just last October 20 it went aground off Honduras but was able to pull itself off. Then it put in at San Pedro here for inspection and repairs and had to leave because of an impending shipyard strike.

The freighter then sailed to San Francisco for the repairs and left there with the cargo it had picked up in Central America.

The ship is of Liberian registry, with its home port Guam. It was being transferred to American ownership.

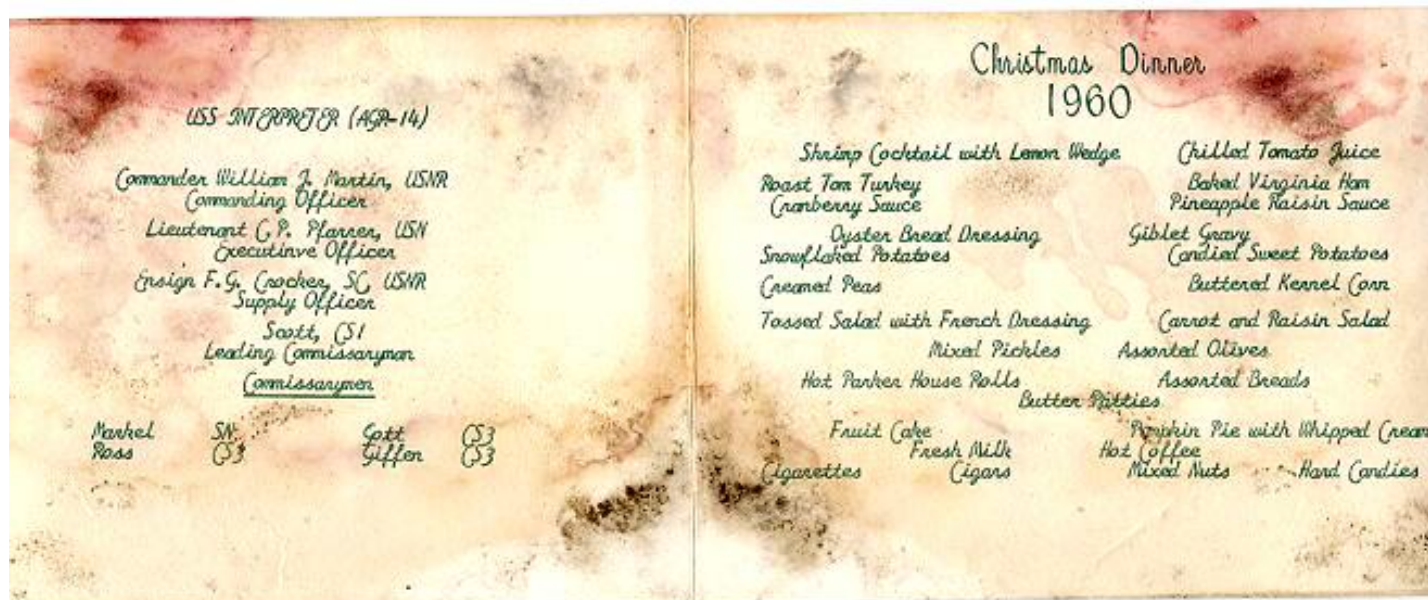


From the USS INTERPRETER AGR-14 website

While going through some boxes that were in the basement and were water damaged, I came across an envelope that contained the Christmas menu from 1960. It was sent to all the families of the crew so they would know what we were having for Christmas dinner. It's in pretty bad shape but I hope you'll get a kick out of it.

respectfully.

Walter Hildbrand



Challenge Coin - Lee Doyel

For sometime I have been thinking about a Challenge Coin for the Association. Below is what I've come up with to date. The front will be the YAGR Logo. The backside presently has two options. Option 1 shows the ANSPS radar antenna that was unique to our ships. It also has a triple expansion steam engine which was also unique to our ships. Around the perimeter are the ship numbers but no names, Option 2 has the RadRon 1 & 2 logos with the individual ship names listed. The size would be 1 1/2" in diameter if option 1 is used. Option 2 would be 1 3/4" due to the ship names. None of this is set in stone (except the front side) and if anyone has some other suggestions, (including different art for the back side) feel free to submit them. Depending on the number ordered (from the vender) the price would be around \$5 to \$6 a coin to members including postage.



OPTION 1



OPTION 2

YAGR REUNIONS

1st Reunion

Newport, RI

May 30 to JUNE 1, 1996

Attendance 40

2nd Reunion

Baltimore, MD

May 29 to May 31, 1997

Attendance 141

3rd Reunion

Charleston, SC

June 4 to June 6, 1998

Attendance 196

4th Reunion

Norfolk, VA

June 3 to June 5, 1999

Attendance 233

5th Reunion

Minneapolis/St. Paul

June 1 to June 3, 2000

Attendance 196

6th Reunion

San Diego, CA

June 14 to June 16, 2001

Attendance 225

7th Reunion

Newport, RI

Dedication of onboard
exhibit on the Battleship
Massachusetts located
at Fall River, MA on May
29, 2002

May 28 to May 30, 2002

Attendance 341

8th Reunion

Pensacola, FL

May 15 to May 17, 2003

Attendance 255

9th Reunion

Philadelphia, PA

May 27, 28, 29, 2004

Attendance 261

10th Reunion

San Francisco, CA (San
Mateo)

May 19, 20, 21, 2005

Attendance 278



Harry Miller - founder of YAGR'S Association
YAGR'S 8th Reunion - 2003
Pensacola Florida

photo by Mel Harder

11th Reunion

St. Louis, MO

May 18, 19, 20, 2006

Pre Reunion Tour

May 17, 2006

Attendance 231

12th Reunion

Washington, DC

Plaque dedication at the
Navy Memorial

May 31, June 1, 2, 2007

Pre Reunion Tours

May 29, 30, 2007

Attendance 274

13th Reunion

Warwick, RI

May 18-20, 2008

Attendance 226

14th Reunion

San Diego, CA

May 21-23, 2009

Attendance 140

15th Reunion

Carnival Freedom Cruise
Ft. Lauderdale, FL

May 2-8, 2010

Attendance 115

16th Reunion

Nashville, TN

May 26-28, 2011

Attendance 198

17th Reunion

Lancaster, PA

May 10-12, 2012

Attendance 153

18th Reunion

Tucson, AR

April 18-20, 2013

Attendance 108

19th Reunion

San Antonio, TX

May 22-24, 2014

Attendance 121

20th Reunion

Charleston, SC

April 30, May 1-2, 2015

Attendance 165

21st Reunion

Branson, MO

May 19-21, 2016

22nd Reunion

Chesapeake, VA

May 2-6, 2017

**Branson pre-reunion
and reunion shows**

Since there is such a variety of shows at Branson it was hard to select which ones to offer. However I have selected 7 for the pre reunion tours, shown on the enclosure to right. They range in type, price and times. You can elect to attend all 7 or just the number you want. The enclosure also lists the times of departure from the hotel which must be strictly adhered to. Copies of the enclosure will be in the hospitality room. Because of the number of pre tours, the hours of the registration and hospitality room will be different from the standard as in past reunions. Hours will be posted at the room entrance. Because of the different hours I will need some volunteers who won't be attending some of the tours to assist in keeping the room open while others go to a show. The normal Saturday schedule, men's business meeting, ladies breakfast, cash bar, banquet, etc., will be the same.

**TUESDAY
MAY 17**



**3:00 p.m.
AMAZING
ACROBATS
Of
SHANGHAI
\$40.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at 2:15
p.m.**



**8:00 p.m.
IT
SHOW
At Hughes
Celebrity
Theatre
\$40.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at 7:15
p.m.**

**WEDNESDAY
MAY 18**



**10:00 a.m.
THE
BRETT'S
SHOW
\$40.00 per person
Leave hotel at 9:15
a.m.**



**3:30 p.m.
MOSES at
Sight and Sound
Theatre
\$65.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at 2:30
p.m.**



**8:00 p.m.
THE
RICK THOMAS
SHOW
\$45.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at 7:30
p.m.**

**THURSDAY
MAY 19**



**2:00 p.m.
#1
HITS
OF THE
60'S MATINEE
\$40.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at
1:15 p.m.**



**5:30 p.m.
Dolly Parton's
DIXIE
STAMPEDE
DINNER AND
SHOW
\$65.00 per person**

**Leave hotel at
4:15 p.m.**

**FRIDAY
MAY 20**

**5:15 p.m.
DINNER at
Montana
Mike's
Followed by**



**THE
CLAY
COOPER
SHOW**

**Leave hotel at
5:00 p.m.**

**COST IS IN
REGISTRATION
FEE**

Registration Form

YAGR'S 21st Annual Reunion - Branson MO

May 19 - May 21, 2016

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible **but no later than April 17, 2016**. Make checks out to YAGR'S. Mail to YAGR'S treasurer Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862. Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag. Also, indicate your choice of meat, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____

banquet choice: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

banquet choice: _____

Additional Guest(s) _____

banquet choice: _____

Ship: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Reunion Registration: Thurs. May 19 - Sat. May 21, 2016			
Includes Fri. May 20 tour & Sat. eve banquet	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse or one guest	\$90.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$107.00		\$
Additional Guest (s)	\$107.00		\$
pre-reunion tour - Tues. May 17	cost/person	# of people	total
Amazing Acrobats of Shanghai	\$40.00		\$
IT Show	\$40.00		
pre-reunion tour - Wed. May 18	cost/person	# of people	total
The Brett's Show	\$40.00		\$
Moses	\$65.00		
The Rick Thomas Show	\$45.00		
pre-reunion tour - Thurs. May 19			
#1 Hits of the 60's	\$40.00		
Dixie Stampede	\$65.00		
names of people on tour			
total amount due			\$

staying in hotel: yes no

sharing room: yes no

if yes, with whom: _____

use a walker: yes no

use a wheelchair: yes no

powered chair: yes no

Hotel room confirmation #: _____

email address: _____

special dietary needs: _____

REUNION SHIRTS	# of shirts	X cost/shirt
small @ \$20 each		
medium @ \$20 each		
large @ \$20 each		
X- large @ \$20 each		
XX- large @ \$22 each		
If not attending reunion, add \$5 for shipping		
total for all shirts		