



YAGRGRAM #76 - FALL 2016

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2017 Reunion Hotel Information

Sheraton Norfolk Waterside
 777 Waterside Dr., Norfolk, VA 23510
 757-622-6664 sheraton.com/norfolk
 Rate: \$109.00 + 14% room tax & a flat \$2.00 a day tax.
 Dates are: May 4-6, 2017
 Pre-reunion tours on: May 2-3, 2016
 All reservations due by 1 April 2017
 PARKING is \$5.00 a day with in and out privileges.
 Complimentary breakfast with room.
 15% discount on restaurant food
 Hotel DOES NOT have an airport shuttle
 Cab fare is about \$25 - \$30

Pre-reunion & reunion tour details - All prices include gratuities for guides and drivers.

TUESDAY, MAY 02, 2017

EVENING: AMERICAN ROVER DINNER SAIL 5:30 – 8:30PM (BOARD @ 5:45PM, CRUISE TIME 6:00-8:00PM)

The American Rover top deck is wheel chair accessible (non-motorized only). Restroom is downstairs on the boat and is not wheel chair accessible. Guests will meet their guide and walk the short distance (1 block) from the hotel to the boarding area at the marina).

MINIMUM OF 40 GUESTS, MAXIMUM OF 100 GUESTS

*Sail Virginia's historic harbor aboard a "tall ship." The 135 foot three-masted schooner, the **American Rover**, is one of Virginia's iconic waterfront fixtures. The open top deck offers views of one of the world's finest seaports with comfortable seating. Guests will enjoy a casual dinner featuring American BBQ cuisine with a flare, in addition to a full service cash bar..

PRICE PER PERSON: \$95.00, INCLUSIVE.



above: 22nd Reunion Hat Pin



WEDNESDAY, MAY 03, 2017

TOUR OPTION 1: Historic Williamsburg, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

*Depart via motor coach with your tour guide for the charming town of **Williamsburg**. A dedicated, licensed tour guide will provide interesting and informative narration during the ride about the historic Virginia Peninsula and the Coastal Virginia area. Upon arrival, step back into the 18th century as a historical interpreter guides guests through the past and the events that helped shape America's history on a one and one half hour leisurely walking tour through the restored district. (Actual distance is approximately 4-5 blocks, and is appropriate for those in wheelchairs).

*Following the overview tour, enjoy free time to shop and browse in the many unique specialty shops in Merchants Square. High quality apparel, gifts, jewelry, unusual quilts, beautiful furniture and holiday decorations are but a few of the offerings found in this quaint, picturesque shopping area. Guests will enjoy lunch on their own in one of the Colonial Taverns or in Merchants Square. The guide will point out all of the dining options as they pass through town.

* Following lunch, visit **Yorktown Victory Center** and see exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, the last major decisive battle of the American Revolution. Take a stroll down Liberty Street, an indoor re-creation of an 18th century lane where voices recount major events from the American Revolution. Visit a recreated 18th century farm site and the Continental Army Encampment. See the film "The Road to Yorktown" and view the numerous indoor exhibits. Following your visit to the Victory Center, drive through the quaint village of Yorktown and past the Revolutionary War Battlefields.

PRICE: \$65.00 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE. LUNCH ON OWN.

TOUR OPTION 2: Virginia Beach, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

* Board the motor coach with your guide to enjoy beautiful views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in **Virginia Beach**.

*See the First Landing Cross at Cape Henry where the English colonists first came ashore in 1607 prior to settling at nearby Jamestown. Walk out on the overlook to see where the bay and the ocean meet, and where the famous Battle of the Capes took place during the Revolutionary War.

*Enjoy a stop at the **Old Cape Henry Lighthouse**, built in 1792, this lighthouse was active until the late 1800's and is currently a Virginia Historic Landmark. Guests may choose to climb to the top of the Lighthouse (small admission fee, pay on own) or shop in the gift shop for all things Lighthouse related.

* Ride down the resort strip; see the historic Cavalier Hotel as well as the Tidewater Veterans Memorial, a unique structure which pays homage to veterans everywhere.

* Next visit Virginia Beach's most popular and unique attractions, the **Military Aviation Museum**. Guests will explore the rich aviation history of our country through an in-depth guided tour. Learn about the meticulously restored vintage aircraft and numerous other veteran vehicles housed in a variety of hangers



and within the main museum. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials.

* Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related.

PRICE: \$60.00 PER PERSON, INCLUSIVE.

FRIDAY, MAY 05, 2017: Tour Norfolk Naval Base and lunch aboard the Spirit of Norfolk, 9:00 AM – 2:30 PM
The Spirit of Norfolk is wheelchair accessible. YAGRS will be on the first deck of the ship and there are restrooms available on first deck.

*Board the motor coach with your tour guide and visit the **Norfolk Naval Base**, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the

Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. A Navy personnel will board the coach and take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

* Next, board the magnificent **Spirit of Norfolk** for a two-hour luncheon cruise. Feast on a sumptuous buffet and enjoy the informative narration as you cruise through the Hampton Roads Harbor. View many fascinating sights along the waterfront, including mighty aircraft carriers and nuclear submarines at the Norfolk Naval Base, Nautilus and the Battleship Wisconsin and Old Fort Norfolk. The ship has two climate-controlled lower decks and an open-air upper deck.

Included in registration fee

Memo from Lee Doyel, Chair

CORRECTION - for minutes of the Branson 2016 men's business meeting, YAGARGRAM #75

A more detailed check of the Branson Reunion records disclosed that ALL 16 ships were represented versus 14 as I reported in the business meetings. That is great. Hopefully we can do it again

As stated at the business meeting, the registration form is the controlling element in deciding questions about who paid for what and who is on what tour list. In Branson the various lists (shows, shirts, etc) were unfortunately inaccurate due to several factors. Some people were not on some lists. A check of that person's registration disclosed they had paid for the show, so they were allowed to go. Similar circumstances were with the shirt order. Fortunately I had ordered a few extras, so all that ordered a shirt received one. After filing out the reunion registration form and a change is desired or required, please fill out an ADDITIONAL FORM with the changes highlighted/noted and send to the Treasurer so he can make the note the change(s). The registration forms are brought to the reunions for this reason. Submission of a change registration form after the cut off date will be done if possible but there is no guarantee the change can be made.

My practice for the last couple of years has been to give the first person to sign up (hotel registration) for the reunion a free room night as a reward. However it has developed that the hotels do not list the date the person made their reservation as they list the names in alphabetical order vice chronological. Therefore as stated in the last business meeting in Branson, the free room night will go to the person who is the first to submit a reunion registration form (with check for fees) as recorded by Armand the treasurer.



Ladies Breakfast - Pat Reichling (PAREichling@aol.com)

Hello YAGRS' Ladies. Hope all of you had a wonderful summer!

The theme for the contest in 2017 in Norfolk is a red, white and blue/ NAVY theme. I had to condense something for engraving so the trophies will say **MS. NAVY, 2017, NORFOLK, VA.** Let your imagination run wild. You could be a NAVY recruit or a NAVY "Pin Up Girl", etc. The contestants always make it fun, and my favorite part is putting them on the spot with a "question" as part of the judging.

I have recently learned that donations of small, new, unused religious articles are appreciated by the VA Hospitals. Pocket sized bibles, prayer books, rosaries, prayer cards, religious medals, etc. Remember it should be small items, as space is usually limited in the facility. Literally something that would fit into your pocket.

The Ladies have a FACEBOOK page. It is listed as **Yagrs' Ladies**. Be sure to stop by for a visit.

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. We still need a coordinator for the USS Picket (AGR-7).

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 stevejackie43@gmail.com
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 Richard Willhite willys55nut@comcast.net
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, 2017. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your current membership expires. If that date is **5/31/16** or earlier, your membership is expired. In order to continue membership and receive future YAGRGRAMS, 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: _____

AGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER

Mail order is \$20.00 each, that includes postage.

No. Ordered _____ Total Amt. Due _____

Name _____

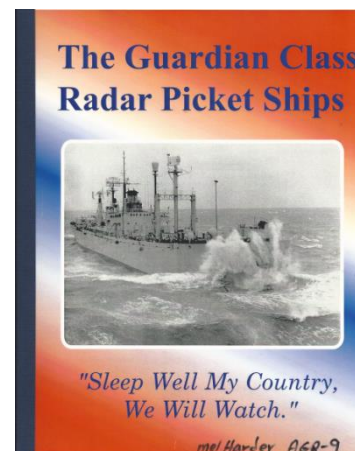
Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

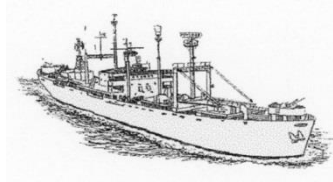
Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



Sea Stories

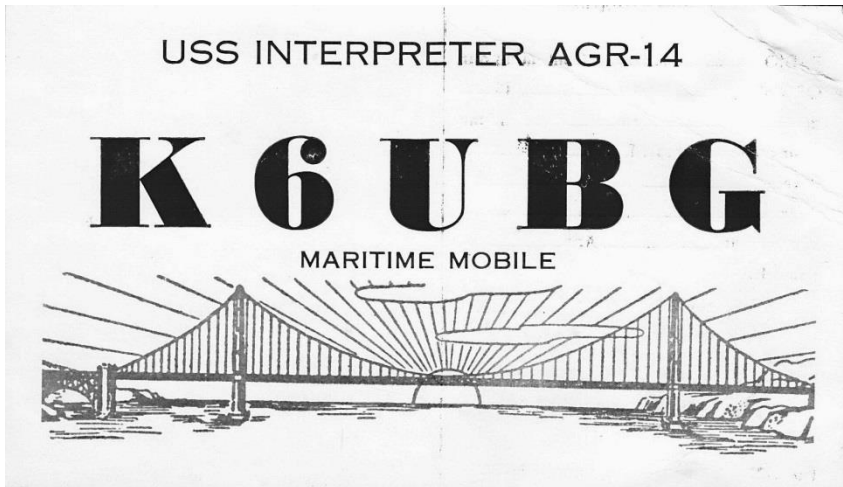
Please send your sea stories to mel.harder@snet.net.



From: Ron Berlier - USS Interpreter

Greetings Lee: In going through lots of old stuff I came across these two items. I thought might be of interest to you. One is a QSL card for the Big 'I' and the other is a pic of our (AGR14) small boat heading over to AGR6. Sorry, I don't recall why the small boat was making the trip. Hope you find them useful, or at least interesting.

Ron Berlier, EM3



Lee Doyel responds: Boat trip was probably a transfer of a shipmate on emergency leave. AGR-6 was probably relieving the 14 and going back to San Fran, We did that several times while I was onboard the Tracer. I was boat officer most of the times. We even transferred to a shipmate to a civilian ship once to get him back in port.

from Harold Pazourek - USS Lookout

note: In the last YAGRGRAM #75 Bob Wiltshire (USS Lookout) wrote about his experience with the SPS-17 radar

I, too, was an ET2 on the USS Lookout during the period 1956-57. Let me add a little more to the lore of the AN/SPS-17. In 1957 our SRb radar was removed and an SPS-17 installed in the same location – the forward kingpin. The 17 operated in the same frequency band as the SRb but the SRb was a WWII vintage radar with what we called a bedspring antenna. My memory tells me that our installation was serial #2 with serial #1 being at the manufacturer. As we were getting ready to go on station we received a message that CNO was very interested in the operation of the 17. Our first class ET had gone to school for the 17 leaving me as senior ET. Of course the system failed not long after we arrived on station. We had a lot of pressure to get the system back in operation. I worked on it four days and three nights, breaking only for meals and head calls. Lots of coffee. No matter how many times I changed the burned out cable it simply blew out again. We finally threw in the towel and called for technical assistance. When our first class, Charlie Atwood, returned from school he passed on to me that the particular piece of cable was actually an impedance matching device and the length and type were critical. Problem solved. As far as I can remember we had no other major problems with the system but we still relied more on the AN/SPS-8a until I left the ship in December.



Comment from Lee Doyel

That radar was so powerful that when it was on it kept the florescent lights in my state room half lite all the time. Never had to turn on the lights when getting dressed for mid and night watches on the bridge.

JERRY GREEN ET2
USS WATCHMAN, AGR-16
1961-1962

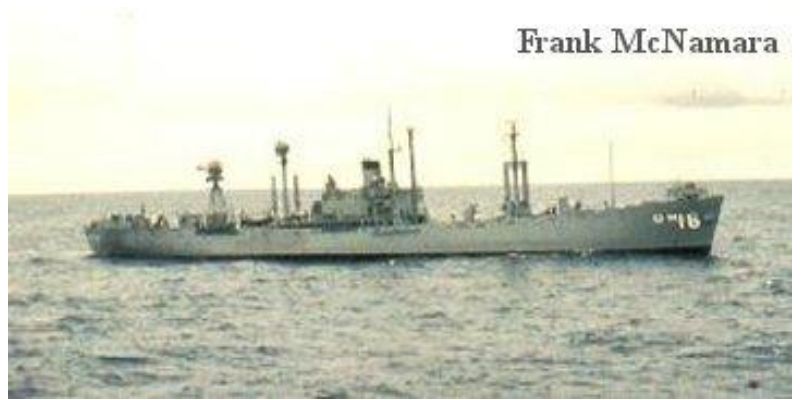
We were on station 300 miles off the Oregon Coast during the Columbus Day storm of October 12, 1962. I read on a history site, that the winds on the coast reached 170 MPH! It was quite a ride and we even had to strap ourselves into our bunks that night to sleep (but who could sleep?).

During the storm, the gimbals attached to the SPS-8 altitude finder radar antenna broke, causing the banana peel radar antenna to bang around on every roll of the ship. I and two other ET'S were preparing to ascend the mast to lash it down, when we were told to go below, and I think Lt. McNamara sent the other officers up to tie it down. I certainly wasn't going to argue, but I would like to give a lot of thanks again to those young men for sticking their necks out for us. Those were the heaviest seas I had ever been in!

When we reached port a few days later at Treasure Island, San Francisco, I was shown a crack that had developed just aft of the chow hall on the overhead. I read somewhere during WWII where these liberty ships broke in two in heavy seas. I guess we were lucky to have lived through it.

P.S. I'm sure Frank, you remember this experience and if I don't have this right, please let me know!

Joe Noonan with the plaque containing all the ships pins he won at the Charleston business meeting



Frank McNamara



BATTLESHIP COVE

AMERICA'S FLEET MUSEUM

Battleship Cove Voted One of the Best!

The USS *Massachusetts*, the USS *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.*, and the USS *Lionfish*, berthed at Battleship Cove, were nominated as USA Today's Best Museum Ship by a panel of experts in the field from a list of over 100 historic vessels - twenty of those ships were chosen to go on to the finals.

The museum, with its emphasis on naval heritage and a dedication to honoring those who served in defense of their country, is proud to have been a part of this esteemed group of museum ships. We congratulate our fellow winners, and all the museum ships nominated. We also thank our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, delegation and everyone who voted.

Plaque dedicated to Harry Miller installed at Yagr Exhibit, USS Massachusetts

Back before Harry died there was a plaque made of him for the museum. Being a very private person he strongly objected to it being placed there. However he has now been over ruled by me (06 verses E9) and it is now there. It is only fitting that he receive the credit due for founding the organization and developing it into an outstanding association.

Lee Doyel

USS *Massachusetts* – Battle Ship Cove, Fall River MA
location of YAGR'S Association special exhibit project



Here is a list of the top ten:

1. USS *Midway* - San Diego
2. Battleship USS *Iowa* - Los Angeles
3. Battleship *Texas* - La Porte, Texas
4. Battleship *North Carolina* - Wilmington, N.C.
5. USS *Yorktown* & USS *Laffey* - Mt. Pleasant, S.C.
6. Battleship *New Jersey* - Camden, N.J.
7. USS *Massachusetts*, USS *Joseph Kennedy, Jr.* & USS *Lionfish* - Fall River, Mass.
8. USS *Lexington* - Corpus Christi, Texas
9. Battleship *Missouri* - Honolulu
10. USS *Alabama* & USS *Drum* - Mobile, Ala.



Registration Form

YAGR'S 22nd Annual Reunion - Norfolk VA

May 4 - May 6, 2017

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible **but no later than April 1, 2017**. There will be an additional \$5/person for late registrants after April 1. 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 4 - Sat. May 6, 2017			
Includes Fri. May 5 tour & Sat. eve banquet	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse or 1 guest	\$98.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$115.00		\$
Additional Guest (s)	\$98.00		\$
pre-reunion tour - Tues. May 2	cost/person	# of people	total
American Rover Harbor Dinner Cruise	\$95.00		\$
names of people on tour			
pre-reunion tours - Wed. May 3	cost/person	# of people	total
Option 1: Colonial Williamsburg	\$65.00		\$
names of people on tour			
Option 2: Riding Virginia Beach Tour	\$60.00		
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		