



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
U.S.S.	YR-23	U.S.S.	YR-65

YAGR'S C/O HARRY MILLER, 230 WEST FOREST AVE., PAWTUCKET, RI 02860-3318 (401) 724-7278 E-MAIL YAGR@MSN.COM

YAGRGRAM # 9

JULY, 1998

4th Reunion to be in Virginia Beach-Norfolk, VA Area

The next reunion will be held in the Virginia Beach-Norfolk VA area as voted on at this year's reunion. For planning purposes you can figure it will be near the end of May or near the beginning of June 1999. As soon as the dates are set, we will get this information out to you. John Whitty (AGR-11 1964) will be the local contact.

For the year 2000 we are hoping to have the reunion somewhere in mid-America. The location will be decided at the next reunion.

Our third reunion, as the others, went on without any major problems. We had 118 former crewmen, 78 w guests for a total of 196 people. The weather in Charleston was very hot. One day it reached 98 with a heat index of 110. But this did not keep us from visiting the sites in and around Charleston, for when we arrived back at our hotel, there were plenty of cold beverages to be had in the hospitality room. At times, it was a challenge to keep everything iced up, as the demand was enormous. One thing the heat did disrupt was our scheduled departure time from Patriots Point. Quite a few people decided to head back to the hotel before the scheduled departure time. But again, this proved to be workable as we had the busses shuttling back and forth to the hotel any way. But all in all, the trip and lunch at Patriots Point were a huge success.

Saturday morning our wives/guests had their buffet breakfast and held their penny social. We want to thank all of you who brought items for the penny social. The raffle raised \$297.00 which was donated to the YAGR treasury to put towards next years reunion. The whole idea for the breakfast is to give the wives something to do while the men are holding their meeting. And I'm pretty sure they did enjoy themselves. We will probably do the same again next year. Judi Johnson suggested that the wives/guests make hats to wear to the breakfast. So, put on your thinking cap (no pun intended) and come up with a design for a great hat.

Meanwhile we held our crew meeting. After the financial report and the report on the status of the Association were given, we got into other matters.

I have heard from some members that they thought the name of the Association should be changed. This was brought up and after a short discussion, a vote was taken and the decision was made to keep the name YAGRS.

The next item brought up was the display that Rod Neal (AGR-11, 1964-65) is in the process of setting up on the USS Yorktown. Rod is in the process of trying to find a compartment aboard the Yorktown that will fulfill our needs for the items we will have on display. He has assured me that it is just a matter of time before he has what we

will need. Fortunately, Rod has a say in where the painting and clean-up take place so he will be able to get the work done in our space. One thing that he said was that a model of a YAGR would fit nicely in our display. He pointed out that the Yorktown just received a model of a Liberty ship that was 3 feet long and done by a local company that had done quite a few of the models on board. He got a quote from them (after he asked me if I thought this was a good idea) for \$5,000.00 and a 10 month time period to complete the model. At this time Bill Simcox (AGR-4 1960-61) told us that he is a model maker and that he would be able to do a model for half that cost and in the same time period once he got the plans for the ship. It was voted that we start a ship building fund to raise the \$2,500.00 needed to have the model built. \$735.00 WAS DONATED AT THE REUNION. At this time I am asking everyone to send a donation for this project. Send whatever you want. If everyone contributes, we will raise the funds needed in no time at all.

Also discussed was the book we are putting together on the history of the Radar Picket Ships. I reported that the response on information has not gone as well as expected. A committee was set up to gather information. This way we have a group that will be able to concentrate on this project only. The committee is comprised of the following YAGRMEN: Bob Philipp AGR-12 1962-64 Chairman, Richard Price AGR-1 1958-61, Jerry Babin AGR-8 1955-1957, Richard Dobson AGR-2 1958-61, Charles Hook AGR-7 1959-61. Bruce Bailey AGR-5 1959-61 has agreed to help also. Bruce has already put out a book on the Picket Ships, but he knew that he was missing a lot of information. We will keep you up-dated on the progress. For the time being, if you have any information, send it to me.

At the close of our crew meeting, Richard Fasig (AGR-3 1955-56) won the clock (made with the YAGRS Logo on its face) that was raffled off.

To close our weekend out, we held our banquet. This was a good time for everyone to take the photos they had been meaning to take all weekend.

Gail and I were surprised at the gifts that were presented to us at the banquet. The picture of the "Liberty Outbound" is hanging in my living room to remind me of the good time and good friends in Charleston.

In with this YAGRGRAM I have enclosed membership cards for those of you who have paid your dues for the year June 1, 1998, to May 31, 1999. If you have paid and have not received a membership card, get in touch with me.

Dues are \$15.00 per year with the exception of the first year which are \$17.00. We added this \$2.00 for the sole purpose of locating former crewmen. We spend a lot of time and money doing this. To date we have located 864 men. On average we hear from one person a day in regards to YAGRS. If anyone has any names of former crewmen, please get them to me and I'll try to reach them. If you do send any names, include as much information as you can about them. Also if you have sent me a name with a known address and you do not see it on the list, it means that person never responded to the card that I sent to them. If this is the case, please try to reach them on your own.

In the past I have sent out a list of former crewmen that I have been in touch with from your ship/ships in the YAGRGRAM that was sent out after the reunion. The only ones who receive this list are those of you who returned the information request form. If this list is not with your YAGRGRAM, I have not received anything from you. So in plain English, no information request form, no list of former crewmen. If you no longer have the information request form, the information that I need in addition to your name is, your rank/rate, years aboard ship, your telephone number, and whether you want your number published on the list of former crewmen.

As most of you know, we are trying to get all the logos (ship emblems) for all the ships. At the present time we have YAGR 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and AGR-1 through AGR-16. The logos for YAGR-3/AGR-3, YAGR-8/AGR-8 are the same with the exception of the letters YAGR or AGR. If anybody has any logos that are not listed here, please send them to me. **Note: Whoever had the logo for YAGR-5 at the reunion, please contact me.**

In any correspondence to me, please include your name and ship.

YAGRS has a web site set up. Since it went on line in November of 1997, it has been responsible for locating 12 former crewmen. Also it has been viewed by over 1050 people. Other web sites that have to do with the cold war have linked to it. The site will be updated in the near future. The YAGRS web site can be viewed at <http://members.tripod.com/~YAGRS/index.html> Please note letters are case sensitive.

To pass along some information that I have come across.

The following shipyards worked on the conversions of the ships.

Charleston, SC	YAGR 2,4,6,8,9,11,13,15 and 16
Norfolk, Portsmouth, VA	YAGR 1,3,5 and 7
Philadelphia, PA	YAGR 10, 12 and 14

Information on the YR's.

YR-23 was disposed of as a target

YR-65 Builder:	Panama Cam Og/Bal	Overall length	153 ft
	Award date 11/01/43	Extreme beam	36 ft
	Keel Laid 6/1/44	Draft	6 ft
	Launched 12/1/45	Displacement	760 tons *
	Delivered 10/1/46		

* note this is as built.

It is believed that the YR-65 is awaiting disposal and is in the custody of Submarine Squadron Eight at Norfolk, VA

Ships Store

(items for sale)

I will again be ordering hats. If you want one, the cost is \$14.50, which includes postage. Send me your name, ship wanted and how many hats along with your check made out to YAGRS. **Please get your order to me by August 20, 1998.**

Ship Logo (emblem): All are approx. 4 1/2" diameter, printed on 8 1/2 x 11" glossy paper.

AGR-1 through AGR-16

YAGR 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

RADRON ONE, RADRON TWO, YAGR DIV 21----- \$3.50 ea.

Silhouette drawing of Ship: Approx. 9 1/2" long, printed on 8 1/2 x 11" glossy paper-----\$3.50 ea.

NOTE: All Logos and drawings are in color and suitable for framing.

Pin for hat/lapel: 3/4" diameter with logo of YAGRS in color-----\$4.25 ea.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

MAKE CHECKS OUT TO YAGRS.

If you have ordered a hat, logo or pin and have not received it, let me know.

The following was sent to me by e-mail. The person who sent it did not include his name. I tried to get it with no luck.

The ongoing saga of Greenballs began one reasonably calm day on Station 3, as I recall. Somehow, in the midst of all the excitement of a typical AGR cruise, one of our lookouts managed to let his gaze wander to the starboard beam where what to his wondering eyes should appear but a green glass ball floating about two to three hundred yards abeam. If you recall the temperament of the times --Cold War (and sometimes it got damned cold on station), Commies behind every bush, a nuclear attack from the Soviet Union imminent at any moment-- our intrepid OOD called the Skipper immediately for his counsel in the matter. Could it be a booby trap carefully designed to strike our hull and dispatch us quickly to the realm of Davy Jones? Should we notify Washington at once and call out our air force some three hundred miles distant to eradicate this heinous threat? Alas And Alack--What To Do.. The Captain finally assumed the conn and very gingerly began his cautious approach. Just short of going to General Quarters, he called out his ever reliable Deck Crew, fully armed with butterfly nets, M-ls, and other assorted appropriate gear to fend off, if necessary, this green mystery.

Now an AGR is a mighty expensive piece of maritime equipment, and should not be exposed any more than necessary to the dangers of the sea, whatever their source, so observing all precautions as determined by Navy Regulations and other similar documents, the Captain ordered the starboard whaleboat, all 26 feet of her, lowered away. (Just as a matter of historical interest, these whaleboats were among the last in the Navy inventory to be lowered and hoisted by hand). Off went our trusty lads, ready for all eventualities, and slowly pulled alongside the Ball (herein after referred to as Greenballs.) With utmost prudence they slipped a net beneath the sphere and carefully brought it aboard. After thorough examination by our highly unqualified EOD expert (a mountain boy who was a pretty fair shot when it came to squirrel hunting back in them thar hills), who decided that perhaps someone from the Wardroom should verify his initial conclusion that no threat was present. That done, the doughty vessel returned alongside and after about an hour hoisting it aboard, he delivered it forthwith to the First Lieutenant, a graduate of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy at Buzzards Bay. Within about an hour's consultation that worthy gentleman determined that the Greenball was, in fact, a float which during some distant storm had been torn away from a Japanese fishing net, heaven only knows when, and slowly drifted its way across the Pacific to meet its ultimate fate aboard our Man Of War. With the recovery of Greenball #1, the race was on. Our XO ensured that the Plan Of The Day enjoined all lookouts to keep their eyes peeled for more glorified marbles, and the waiting list grew longer each day.

Amazingly, from that date forward, and probably throughout the remaining history of AGR patrols in the Pacific, more and more Greenballs were recovered, and the luckier members of the crew completed their tours with souvenirs more rare than the exotic treats of the Orient.

If you have a story of interest, pass it along to me and I'll try to fit it in a YAGRGRAM.

USS TRACER AGR 15

	NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIP CODE	RATE/YEAR	TELE #
1	ASMUNDSON, FRANKLIN	13350 SAINT ANDREWS DR 68A	SEAL BEACH	CA	90740	CO	
2	BACON III, LELAND	113 RAINBOW FOREST DR	LYNCHBURG	VA	24502	EN3 1958-60	804-239-4456
3	BAKER, BROWNING	41 WIND WARD WALK	NORTH KINGSTOWN	RI	02852-4022	BT3 1958-61	401-294-7811
4	BAXTER, DONALD	113 COVE RD	WILLIAMSBURG	VA	23185	LTJG 1958-61	757-229-4761
5	BENNETT, DONOVAN	25239 S. FAIR OAKS DR	SUN LAKES	AZ	85248-7954	LTJG 1960-62	602-895-1435
6	BENSON, JAMES	2660 MARILEE LN A34	HOUSTON	TX	77057-4261	LT 1962-65	713-953-9626
7	BERNARD, ARNOLD	26 COOK DR	WILLIAMSTOWN	NY	13493	MM2 1958-60	315-964-2518
8	CATES, G.V.	9016 ELLENWOOD LN	FAIRFAX	VA	22032		
9	COLEMAN, JIM	23 ROCKWELL COURT	ANNAPOLIS	MD	21403-1502	LTJG 1958	SHIP SUPT.
10	COSKI, BERNARD "BEN"	4666 BROMFIELD AVE	VIRGINIA BEACH	VA	23455-4952	LT 1958-61	
11	DOYEL, M. L. "LEE"	2315 BAVARIAN CT.	PENSACOLA	FL	32503	LTJG 1960-62	850-433-6930
12	EUSDEN, RICHARD	135 RICHARD RD	ASTON	PA	19014		
13	GORMLEY, JOE	16901 CRANFORD LANE	GROSSE POINTE	MI	48230-1547	LTJG 1958-60	313-886-6226
14	HOKANSON, WARREN	12634 HASTINGS ST. NE	MINNEAPOLIS	MN	55449	AG 1960-64	
15	KOPLIN ROY	1424 SERRA DR	PACIFICA	CA	94044	RD	
16	LAIN, CALVIN	35879 BURNING TREE DR	NEWARK	CA	94560	ENS 1962-64	
17	MARCHESCHI, LEE	700 GREGFORD RD	BURR RIDGE	IL	60521	LTJG 1958-61	630-323-2176
18	MILEY, MANNING	4421 HIGHWAY 162	HOLLYWOOD	SC	29449-5703		
19	MITCHELL, M. R.	2760 ARNOLDSON AVE	SAN DIEGO	CA	92122-2110	LTJG 1961-63	619-453-0954
20	NANNINI, AL	125 KAY ST	NEWPORT	RI	02842-2832	LTJG 1960-62	401-846-4579
21	PADGETT, ROGER	4752 N. CRYSTAL AVE	FRESNO	CA	93705	LTJG 1960-63	209-227-5202
22	PANCIERA, FRED	13402 BLYTHENIA RD	PHOENIX	MD	21131-1512	LTJG 1961-64	410-666-5338
23	PRIEST, CLAUDE	1071 MARYS LAKE RD	ESTES PARK	CO	80517	ENS 1963-65	970-586-3081
24	REVELL, JIM	1843 KETELLA ST	SAN DIEGO	CA	92154	1959	
25	SCARROW, FLOYD	1457 MANNING RD	SUFFOLK	VA	23434	DC3	
26	SHAY, LAWRENCE	21 GOODWIN ST	NIANTIC	CT	06357		
27	SHRODE, JAMES	19622 S. LELAND RD	OREGON CITY	OR	97045	EM3 1961-62	503-655-1270
28	SPILLUM, MIKE	6876 NORTHCREST WAY EAST	CLARKSTON	MI	48346	LTJG 1959-62	810-625-5332
29	SZAKAS, CHARLES J	231 TILESTON AVE	ZANESVILLE	OH	43701	DC3 1964	
30	TINGLEY, RONALD	1641 SOUTH SWEET BRIAR LN.	SPRINGFIELD	OH	45505	SFM3 1959-64	937-324-8311
31	WINER, MEL	6652 W. BROADWAY RD	PHOENIX	AZ	85043-6508	1958-60	
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