



YAGRGRAM #64 - Fall 2012

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

YAGRS 18TH ANNUAL REUNION - TUCSON AZ - APRIL 18-20 2013 DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS YAGRGRAM

Message from the Chair: Lee Doyel

Tucson Reunion Hotel Information

The 2013 reunion will be held at the **Double Tree Suites Hotel Tucson Airport**.

Address: 7051 S. Tucson Blvd.

Tucson, AZ 85756

Phone: 520-225-0800

The hotel has a 24 hour airport shuttle

Room rate is \$95.00 plus 13% room tax plus a \$2.00 a day city tax, and is good for 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion dates. As always, be sure to mention you are with YAGRS. To avoid registration problems, be sure you are talking to the hotel in Tucson and not a national call center. For online bookings go to their website: **www.tucsonairportsuites.doubletree.com**.

Put in your dates and above the **check availability button** click **add special rate code**, and then under group code enter **YGR**. If problems persist, call Brian Forrester at 1-800-998-1228. The hotel has set up a personalized web page for our group with the YAGRS logo where you can also register. The web address for this page is too long to include in this YAGRGRAM. Those wishing to utilize or see this web page can email me at **yagrs16@cox.net** and I will forward the page address to you.



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As an incentive for registering at the hotel early, there will be a free room night awarded to two individuals who register by December 1, 2012. The names of the early registers will be put in a pool and two names drawn for a free room night. Register early even if your plans are not firm. You can always cancel your hotel reservations with a 24 hour notice. March 18, 2013 is the registration cutoff date.

In Lancaster I noticed several members giving/leaving money for wait staff/drivers. You may do so if you wish. However be aware the negotiated price for all tours and meals or service at our reunions includes a gratuity for the pertinent personnel.

Reunion and Tour Details

The reunion format will be the same as in past reunions. The men's business meeting and spouse's breakfast will be Saturday morning. We will have pre-reunion tours on Tuesday (Apr 16) and Wednesday (Apr 17). The Tuesday tour has been divided into two parts. This is to facilitate those persons coming into Tucson in the afternoon. You may sign up for one or both of the Tuesday tours.

tours details cont.

The first Tuesday tour is the historic town tour which includes San Xavier Mission, historic barrios, Snob Hollow, Old Town Artisans, shops and more. The time for this tour is from 12:00 pm (noon) to 4:00 pm and costs \$35.00 a person.

The second Tuesday tour is an evening at Traildust Town which is a charming lamp lite western town in the heart of Tucson and once a movie set for a Glenn Ford movie. It is filled with western shops, galleries, western memorabilia and home to the Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse where we will have dinner. You may select steak, salmon or chicken, all mesquite grilled over an open fire. A cash bar is available. Western reenactments and shootouts will occur throughout the evening. The time for this tour is 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and cost \$62.00 a person.

The Wednesday tour (April 18) will be to Tombstone, "The Town to Tough to Die," Boothill and the shootout at the OK corral. You will be able to visit the Crystal Palace, Bird Cage Saloon, the Tombstone Epitaph, Old Courthouse and many shops. Lunch will be on your own at one of the many cafes and saloons. The time for this tour is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm which includes transit time. Cost of the tour is \$55.00 a person.

The Friday tour (April 19) will be of the Pima Air Museum and aircraft boneyard. The museum is the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the USA. Over 200 are on display indoors and outside. Lunch will be on your own. At 1:15 pm we transfer to Davis Monthan AFB for a narrated tour of the Boneyard where more than 5,000 aircraft are stored and used to maintain and repair military planes. **A GOVERNMENT (federal, state, county, etc.), ISSUED PICTURE ID IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE BONEYARD. NO ID NO ENTRANCE.** The time for this tour is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm which includes transit times. The cost of this tour is included in your reunion registration fee.

Ship's Coordinators

As of this newsletter there are 11 ships coordinators. There is a need for additional ones. To date AGR-1,2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 ,12 ,15 & 16 have coordinators. We need coordinators for AGR-7, 8, 11, 13 & 14. I have several names (with email addresses) for the each of the ships needing coordinators which would give anyone volunteering a "base" for his (or her) group list.

Banquet Seating

As discussed in the business meeting in Lancaster I suggested that on a ONE TIME BASIS banquet tables would be assigned a number with a matching number in the registration packets. The purpose of this was to "mix up the crowd" so individuals could socialize and become acquainted with members from different ships that otherwise would not occur. Since there was no objection voiced at the meeting, this will be done at this reunion.

Ship's Store

There has been a production problem with hats ordered at the last reunion. However, we are at the top of the *to do* list of the business and hats are expected to be mailed at the end of August 2012. There are also ship hat pins and rate (pins) for the collar or hat at \$2.00 each. All prices quoted in the store include shipping. When you order the item is shipped with a stamped addressed envelope to the treasurer for payment. Make the check out to YAGRS and mail it in the enclosed envelope.

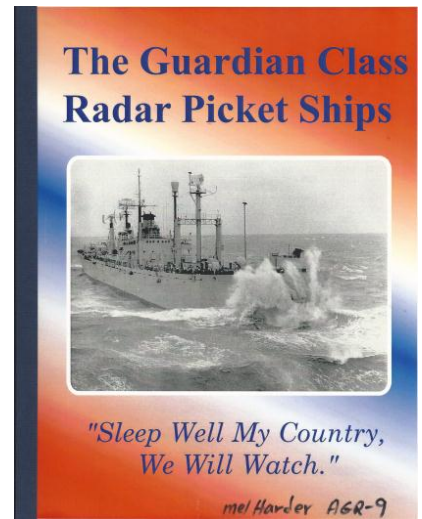
Ship's Jackets - Joe Noonan, USS Vigil

Just got the YAGRGRAM and saw Lee Doyel's mention of ship's jackets. I have had one for a few years and have given others information on getting one. Below is the web site for a company on Long Island. The guy is great to deal with and he will put anything on a jacket such as dates served along with a ship's silhouette. For the ship silhouette you can get it one color or with a RED bottom. I think the RED really stands out so if someone orders they should specify type. The jacket that I and others have ordered is the M102.

<http://www.modelshipbuilding.com/embrjackets.htm>

YAGR Book Update as of 8/7/12 - Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

First mailing of 29 books (orders taken at Lancaster reunion) went out 6/20/12. Second mailing of 61 books (orders from newsletter) went out on 7/23/12 . A third mailing of 34 books (orders from newsletter) , currently at printer, to be mailed by end of next week. Some of the men sent more money than what was quoted in the news letter and noted to "keep the change". With that money I had 5 extra books printed. Also, the printer gave us a discount on the spiral bound books, so I refunded \$3.00 to those who ordered the spiral bound books. I only refunded to the whole dollar and kept the cents which helped pay for the 5 extra books . I also have 3 spiral books that were donated, for a total of 8 extra books . The third mailing will probably be the last for the foreseeable future since I have not received any new orders for two weeks.



The Spouse/Guest Saturday Morning Breakfast - by Nell Doyel

The YAGR men will again honor the ladies at the reunion with a scrumptious Saturday morning breakfast. The ladies' "Penny Auction" of thoughtful little items the ladies have donated, some hand made and some purchased will be won by free tickets they receive in the registration pack. The items are to be little thoughtful items, 'white elephant' items or maybe something handmade and a \$10.00 limit is suggested. To increase the fun and friendship, each year a representative of one different ship will be named the "Auctioneer" and will announce the winner of each item and direct the distribution of the prizes. The 2013 Auctioneer will be announced prior to the reunion. The ladies of the 2013 reunion will also collect warm items such as shawls, afghans, jackets, anything WARM for our troops who are wounded and sent to Landstuhl Germany. Troops arriving from the desert are always cold and items for warmth are the most requested thing! See details in YAGRGRAM #63 (last issue of newsletter.) Contact coordinator: Pat Reichling at pareichling@aol.com.

The "2013 Fashion Show" will feature aprons and each lady is requested to create her representation of an apron to model and one will win the number one honor! Several suggestions for a theme were discussed at the last reunion. I called more than five of the women and none could verify a final decision was made so I settled on the aprons. Make it pretty, paper, lace, ugly, crepe paper, fabric, yarn, weeds, flowers, fun or serious. Whatever you style you will wear! The winner will be "Titled" and awarded a surprise recognition gift! PLAN NOW and be in on all the fun! All ladies remember to save the large plastic mailing bags (like we receive ordered clothing in.) They will be reversed inside to out and reused for mailing to Landstuhl Hospital.

Message from the Secretary - Mel Harder, USS Investigator

As of 8/7/12 we have 512 dues paying members. Members who fall 2 years behind on dues are moved to an inactive member list, and can be reinstated by submitting a current dues payment. Spouses of members who are deceased may continue their membership & continue to receive YAGRGRAMS by submitting a current dues payment, and are welcome to participate in all YAGR activities and reunions. Please use the form below for dues payment.

YAGRGRAMS are posted on the YAGR'S website, <http://www.yagrs.org>, and can be viewed & printed in color.

DUES PAYMENT

Dues are \$17 per year. The membership year runs from June 1 - May 31. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your membership is currently paid to. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year. Make checks payable to YAGR'S Association, and mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica, MA 01862.

Name: _____

Ship: _____

amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____ email address: _____

Sea Stories - from Lee Doyel, USS Tracer

I was aboard USS Tracer (AGR-15) as Engineering Officer from 1960 to 1962 stationed at Treasure Island, CA. There were two or three piers there of concrete and wood. The wooden ones have long since been removed. There were usually two or three ships moored at the piers. During this time it seemed that the USS Watchman (AGR-16) spent a large amount of time in port. I didn't pay that much attention but started hearing from the crew about "Pier 16" referring to the Watchman. She would be there on our departure and there on our return. It did seem she was in port and made less patrols than the other ships but a check of ships logs and operational schedule might prove that a misconception. You know how sailors are when they start talking and relaying opinions. I do know that on occasion sister ships made patrols that were scheduled for the Watchman due to Watchman having mechanical problems, i.e. wiped shaft bearings, boiler tubes, evaporators, or some critical pump or electronic equipment. I know aboard Tracer we repaired a lot of things underway or on station. We never missed a patrol due to mechanical problems. On one occasion on the way to station we laid to and took off the cover to the large piston to tighten down the retaining nut. It had loosened enough so the piston was "slapping." After repairs we continued to station and completed our patrol. Tracer's CO was always chiding me about how clean the Watchman's engine room was. They had aluminum deck plating and all the brass was polished. It really was clean but I told him they spent all the OpTar (operating funds) on decking and polish rather than maintenance.



Toward the end of my tour the Watchman earned an "Efficiency E" which were awarded to ships for their performance. That kinda galled me as I knew Tracer was a better ship. In fact it received an efficiency E after I left. It also received the best mess afloat. Setting at the pier and looking across at that E painted on the wing of the Watchman's bridge irritated me and I made a comment it would be nice if it was painted out. I don't recall who was around but apparently a Snipe (engineering type) heard me. Anyway shortly before I transferred off the ship I had the duty and was making my nightly rounds. I forget the time but I'm sure it was past midnight. The ship was port

Frank McNamara



side to the pier with the Watchman starboard side across the pier. I was on the port wing of the bridge after checking the bridge and looked aft. I saw a dark shadow of a man carrying some items making his way to the after mooring lines. Strange, so I decided to watch and see what would happen. The individual slid down the mooring line to the pier with his items and crossed the pier and boarded the Watchman via their mooring lines. As he crossed the pier I was able to see he had a gallon paint can and a metal tray.

I stayed on the bridge in the shadows and waited. Sure enough the individual appeared on the Watchman's bridge and proceeded to paint over the efficiency E on the starboard side with grey paint. He disappeared and I assumed he went to the port side to do the same thing. In a few minutes he slid down the aft mooring lines of the Watchman and onto the pier. However when he tried to re board Tracer had trouble and finally gave up, leaving the Quarterdeck as his only way back aboard. I had recognized the individual (who shall remain nameless) as a snipe who had the duty that night. Knowing he would be questioned at the Quarterdeck, I proceeded to the Quarterdeck and engaged the watch in conversation distracting him and keeping his back to the gangplank long enough for the individual to come back aboard unseen by the quarterdeck watch.

I am sure that individual was nervous about what I might say to him the next day but I never mentioned the episode and neither did he. I would liked to have taken a picture of the blank wing of the Watchman's bridge but my camera was out of film. I don't know how long it took the Watchman to realize their precious E had been painted over. (Have a sea story or photos to share? Email to Mel Harder, YAGRS secretary: mel.harder@snet.net)



Tucson (pronounced too-sahn) - The Real Southwest - A Little History

Located in the southern Arizona, Tucson is one of the oldest continually inhabited areas of North America. Hohokam Indians lived and farmed there for 4,000 years before Spanish missionaries and soldiers arrived in the late 1600's. In the 1700's these "newcomers" established the Presidio San Agustin del Tucson and the Mission San Xavier del Bac - the two most iconic and historic structures in the region. "The Old Pueblo", as the adobe-walled Tucson Presidio became known, is Tucson's nickname today.

Tucson was officially founded on August 20, 1776 - an event celebrated annually at Tucson's birthday party, La Fiesta de San Agustin. Though once part of Mexico, Tucson officially became part of the United States in 1854. Soon after, cattle ranchers, settlers, miners and Apache Indians began to clash, thus beginning the Wild West era of 1860-1880. With the Southern Pacific Railroad's arrival in 1880, Tucson's multicultural roots grew as new residents adopted customs of the Tohono O'odham Indians and Mexicans living there. In 1877, the city was incorporated, making Tucson the oldest incorporated city in Arizona.



Tucson is now the second largest city in Arizona after the state capital Phoenix and metropolitan Tucson's population is more than one million. This includes roughly 50,000 students and employees at the University of Arizona, the first university in Arizona, founded in 1885.

Tucson Weather

Tucson is the sunniest city in the United States! With more than 350 days of sunshine every year, that means there's more time to enjoy all the amazing outdoor activities, events and fun things to do in the Old Pueblo.

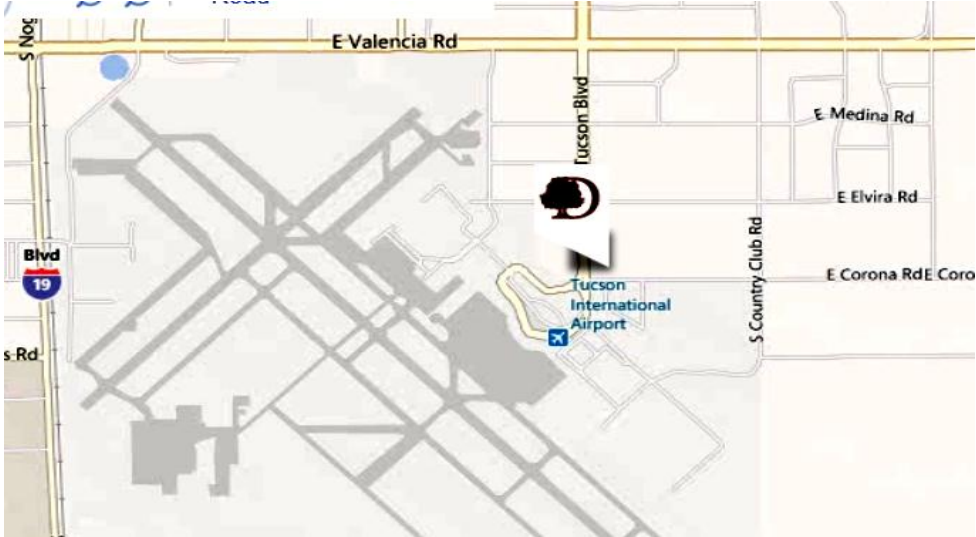
Tucson days are warm and sunny, and nights are cool and comfortable. Our mild temperatures during spring, fall and winter are legendary. While temperatures rise during the summer, low humidity keeps even the warmest days enjoyable. Average temperature for April will be a maximum of 82 and a minimum of 50.

While Tucson is located in the Sonoran Desert, the landscape is surprisingly lush. Thanks to the two rainy seasons in late summer and early winter, specially adapted desert plants thrive all over southern Arizona.

For other information on Tucson and surrounding area visit www.visittucson.org.
For information regarding airport/airline service visit www.flytucsonairport.com.



Double Tree Suites Hotel & Tucson Tour Attractions



[Click here for our Hours of Operation](#)



YAGR'S 18th Annual Reunion - Tucson AZ

April 18-20, 2013

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible but no later than March 18, 2013 to Armand Lamarche, YAGR'S Treasurer, 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 steak, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____ banquet choice: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ banquet choice: _____

Ship: _____ Date on Board: _____ Rate: _____

Reunion Registration - Tucson AZ - April 18-20 2013			
	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse/guest	\$75.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$90.00		\$
pre-reunion tours			
Tuesday, April 16 2013 - Historic City Tour (12:00pm - 4:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$35.00		\$
	\$35.00		\$
Tuesday, April 16 2013 - Evening Dinner at Traildust Town (6:00pm - 9:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$62.00		\$
	\$62.00		\$
Wednesday, April 17 2013 - Tombstone (9:00am - 4:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$55.00		\$
	\$55.00		\$
total amount due			\$

Reunion Shirts	# of shirts X cost	total
small @ \$15/each	\$	\$
medium @ \$15/each	\$	\$
large @ \$15/each	\$	\$
X-large @ \$15/each	\$	\$
XX-large @ \$18/each	\$	\$
total for all shirts		\$



USS GUARDIAN AGR-1
Ervin Thomure



USS LOOKOUT AGR-2

www.yagrs.org



USS SKYWATCHER AGR-3



USS SEARCHER AGR-4



USS SCANNER AGR-5

www.yagrs.org



USS LOCATOR AGR-6

Lee Callahan



USS PICKET AGR-7



USS INTERCEPTOR AGR-8

Gene Hildreth



USS INVESTIGATOR AGR-9

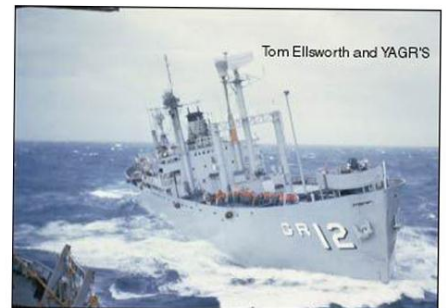


USS OUTPOST AGR-10



USS PROTECTOR AGR-11

www.yagrs.org



Tom Ellsworth and YAGR'S

USS Vigil (AGR-12) Coming along side the USS Protector (AGR-11)



USS INTERDICTOR AGR-13

www.yagrs.org



USS INTERPRETER AGR-14

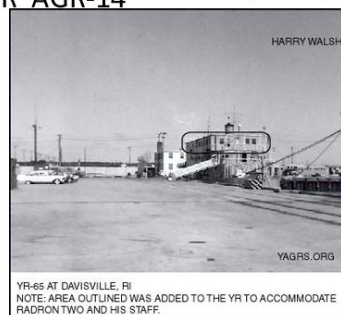
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USS TRACER AGR-15



USS WATCHMAN AGR-16



HARRY WALSH

YAGRS.ORG

YR-65 AT DAVISVILLE, RI
NOTE: AREA OUTLINED WAS ADDED TO THE YR TO ACCOMMODATE
RADRON TWO AND HIS STAFF.